

Portfolio

£66,000 to be won

There is £66,000 available to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today. The weekly prize is £60,000 - £20,000 for this week, plus £40,000 because no-one won the prize last week, or the week before. The daily prize today stands at £6,000 - it was £5,000 yesterday or the day before. Portfolio list, page 22; week's price changes, information service, back page.

New police inquiry on Ponting

Ministry of Defence police have reopened their inquiries into the Clive Ponting affair, the ministry confirmed last night. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister dismissed Mr Neil Kinnock's allegations about the role of ministers in the prosecution of Mr Ponting with a blanket denial that there was any interference in the process. Sir Ewen Broadbent, a retired Ministry of Defence official, said on radio that he alone was responsible for referring the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Flow DFP was told, page 2

The Times

The price of The Times will rise to 25p on Monday. This is the first increase since March 24, 1980.

Aids in jails

As an Aids suspect at Camp Hill prison, Isle of Wight, was transferred to hospital for tests, prison officers revealed there were other suspected cases.

RUC criticized

A judge criticized senior RUC officers who ordered three members of a specially trained unit to invent a statement about the killing of a man in an Armagh.

Sofia accused

Travellers have accused Bulgaria of security forces of rape and killing in a government campaign to force ethnic Turks to change their names.

Food armada

An armada of 15 ships with 130,000 tonnes of food is heading for Ethiopia where the UN now estimates that 8.5 million are at risk from starvation.

'Spy diplomats'

Spain's Foreign Minister confirmed that two US officials, enjoying diplomatic status had been expelled for spying after photographing secret installations.

Spying scandal, page 4

Botha hope

President Botha of South Africa, repeating his offer to talk with the banned African National Congress and release Mr Nelson Mandela, said "the lessons of history" must be heeded.

Schools case

Solidified council is expected to take the National Union of Teachers to the High Court in a test case against withdrawal of cover in schools.

Walesa order

As three Solidarity activists faced charges for planning a national strike, Mr Lech Walesa said he has been summoned for questioning today "as a suspect".

422 jobs go

Levi-Strauss, the jeans manufacturer, is to close two factories in Scotland with the loss of 422 jobs.

Revenue blitz

The Inland Revenue is tightening controls on PAYE tax perks, and allowances such as those for cleaning uniforms or buying newspapers are being discouraged.

Scotland blow

Roger Baird has withdrawn because of injury from Scotland's team for the rugby union match against France. Pollock replaces him on the wing.

Page 25

Leader page 9
Letters: Obituaries and TV, from Dr D J. Drury; bishops and faith, from the Right Rev M A P Wood.
Leading articles: Synod; miners; in the box.
Obituaries, page 10
Dr O G Edholm, Captain Robert Boyd, RN, Olga Franklin.

Pages 2-4: Law Report 25
Obituaries 44
Aids 18
Rugby 11-22
Church 19
Sport 20
Obituaries 21
Drama 8
Weather 28

Pit peace formula fails to sway NUM and Nacods

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Hopes for a swift end to the 11-month coal strike were plunged into fresh uncertainty last night after miners' leaders withheld agreement on a draft peace deal.

The National Union of Mineworkers' executive discussed for more than three hours coal board proposals presented by the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, before responding in a way that suggested talks were some way off.

The miners repeated their long-standing proposition for negotiations "without preconditions", a formula that board officials rejected immediately as unsatisfactory.

Mr Willis gave the 26 NUM leaders the details of the board's "final proposition", designed to be the basis of an agreement to end the conflict over colliery closures.

Mr Willis emphasized that it was not a TUC document, and declined to recommend it to miners' leaders, summoned to London expecting an early end to the dispute.

The paper was submitted to the miners and the pit deputies union, Nacods, as "the furthest the NCB would go". It emerged that the document had the backing of the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, and the Prime Minister's office.

The prospects for negotiations received a further blow when it was learnt that the 10-man executive of Nacods, who were attending the "summit" at

Congress House had also taken strong exception to some of the package.

It is understood they objected to a key part which would concede a right to the board to close pits on the grounds that they are unprofitable. That it was argued, ran contrary to the spirit of the deal last October with deputies that does not explicitly make such allowances to shut down "uneconomic" collieries.

Leaders of the unions were at TUC headquarters late last night, eight hours after being summoned to hear the outcome of secret meetings between Mr Willis and Mr Ian MacGregor, board chairman.

The miners' reaction was regarded by the coal board as "unsatisfactory", but it has not lost hope of a resumption of negotiations. It seems more likely that the two sides will get together next week, rather than this weekend.

The one-page document put to the unions redefines the relative status of the board and unions.

It reasserts the board's right and duty under the nationalization Act of 1946 to manage the industry in the best way it sees fit.

The union may have policies to oppose the board's objectives

in particular its insistence that "uneconomic" pits must close - but it could not expect to have a veto on these powers.

It was being stressed by TUC officials that the agenda for a solution to the dispute was the result of informal contacts with the board rather than TUC initiative, as it had been described by the board - an indication that the TUC was already distancing itself from the result.

Although if the latest formula fails to get the two sides together it is hard to see how the TUC could re-enter the dispute to find common ground.

In its reaction to the board's proposals, the NUM said: "The national executive, having taken account of the report by the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, following discussions with the board, believe that the union's response should now provide the basis for an immediate resumption of negotiations without preconditions and hopefully a resolution to this long and damaging dispute."

It was not clear what "the union's response" had been, though it was thought that the NUM had written to the board proposing immediate negotiations without the preconditions.

The pit deputies and miners were last night ensconced in TUC headquarters, awaiting a summons to the board's headquarters in Victoria.

Protection of embryos

Challenge as MPs pass Powell Bill

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The House of Commons yesterday voted to pass the Government's Protection of Human Embryos Bill, which would protect human embryos with a 172-vote majority.

On a free vote which split cabinet, party, ministry and even family in the Commons, MPs divided by 238 to 66 in favour of a second reading for the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill.

The Bill proposes criminal penalties to prevent a human embryo being created, kept or used for any purpose other than enabling a child to be borne by a particular woman. Research or experimentation - words used on the two sides of the argument - would be expressly banned.

The legislation now goes into a Commons standing committee which will be dominated by Mr Powell's supporters, and some senior and experienced parliamentarians were saying last night that it was "unstoppable".

Controversial private member's legislation is notoriously difficult to drive through Parliament, but yesterday's majority challenges the Government to take an initiative.

The Government's headache is that there is no clear view on the matter, either in the Department of Health and

Car blast recounted by Pringle

The jury hearing evidence about the IRA bombing campaign in 1981 was told yesterday how Sir Stewart Pringle, despite being critically injured, had warned people to stay away from his car in case there was a second bomb.

In a statement read to the Central Criminal Court by Mr Roy Amlot, for the Prosecution, Sir Stewart then Commandant General Royal Marines, said the bomb, fixed by magnet wire, was a wheel arch, and exploded as he pulled away from his home at South Croxted Road, West Dulwich, south London, in his VW Passat.

"Very soon after I started the car I felt it going over to the left. The windscreen shattered. I was at the time moving into a lane of traffic to travel south. I heard a roar and saw my legs moving to the roadside of the car."

"Then I heard the sound of falling bits and pieces and then silence," the statement said. After about two seconds he heard someone shout: "It's a bomb." I could not see what had happened to my legs but I never lost consciousness.

His dog Bella, who was in the back of car, barked, the jury was told.

Sir Stewart, aged 53, who retired from the Marines last year, said in his statement: "I looked at my fingers. They were very messy. My head and shoulders were against the driver's door and my left leg was in the wall by the passenger seat."

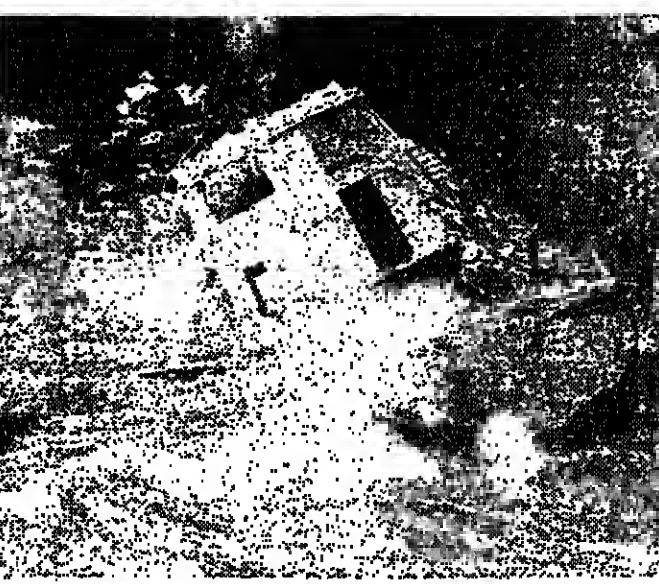
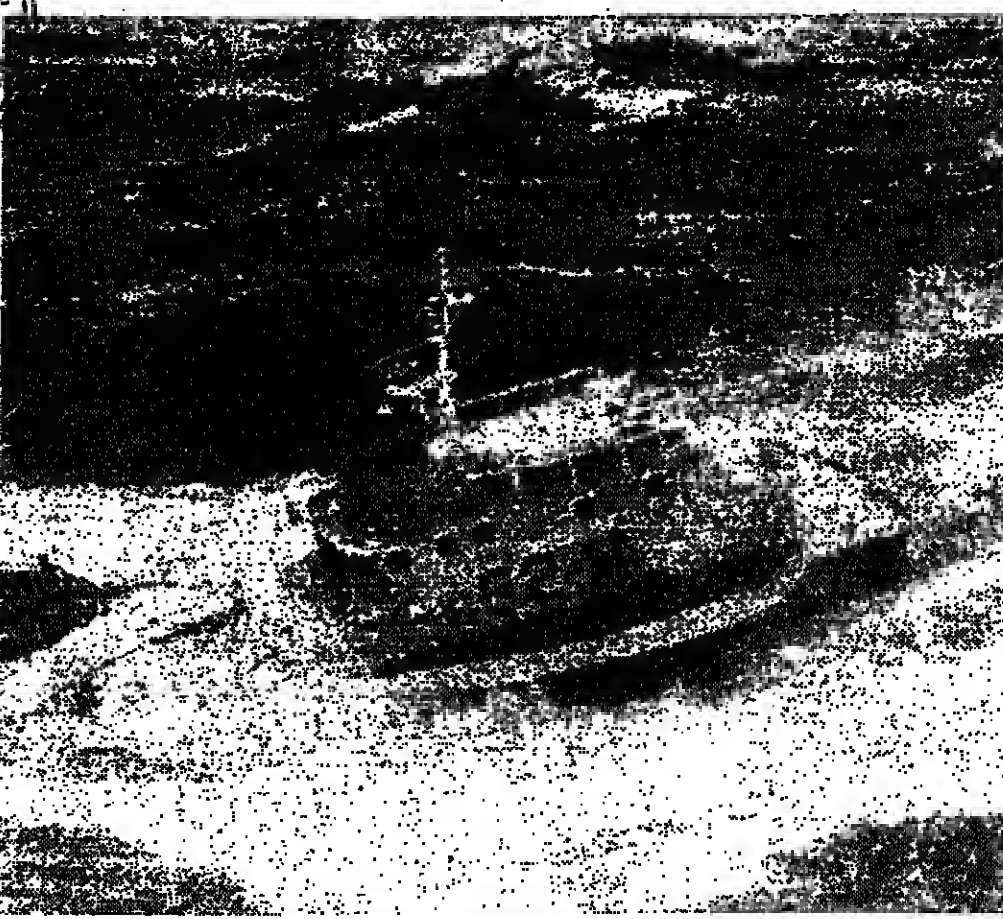
"I saw that my right leg was a mess. My right foot and shoe were on top of my leg. I knew that I was badly injured but that I was not going to die."

"The shock waves of damage I knew had affected my legs but had not travelled further up my body."

"I was aware of this and although towards the end, before the emergency services had cut me out I got very cold, I had little pain and no doubts about my survival."

He remembered telling his son Simon three things: "He was to look after his mother, to keep away from the car, and to call the Colonel who could be contacted through the Ministry of Defence duty officer."

Continued on back page, col 6



Cruel seas: The Falmonth lifeboat (top) standing by the French trawler St Simeon in the Channel. A boat battered alongside a pier at Falmonth.

Gales lash Channel as freeze goes on

The freeze will continue around Britain over the weekend, with more snow in the South, the London Weather Centre forecast last night.

As the cold front moves south over France, snow showers are likely in the South-west and possibly the east coast today. Most of the country will remain below freezing, with more snow forecast for North-east Scotland on Sunday. Cold easterly winds will continue.

The outlook for next week is little better, with no sign of a break in the weather before the middle of next week.

As gales buffeted the south coast yesterday, ferry services stopped, ships broke their moorings and off the Cornish coast the Penleez and Falmonth lifeboats were launched to help a French fishing boat. The 65ft trawler St Simeon, began taking in water 17 miles off the Lizard and was saved from foundering by an extra pump lowered by a RAF helicopter from RAF Culdrose in 60mph winds.

A French warship went to the aid of another French fishing boat the Bellamy, in trouble 55 miles south of Plymouth, and was believed to be escorting her home to France last night. The Brixham lifeboat was launched to help the 40ft pilot cutter Sea Harrier into harbour after its compass failed.

Royal Navy exercises in the English Channel were disrupted by 60mph gales off the Dorset coast and the frigate HMS Alacrity was ordered to weather

Kasparov anger as match is abandoned

From Richard Owen, Moscow

An astonishing outburst from Gary Kasparov, the 21-year-old challenger in the marathon world chess championships here, marked yesterday's Press conference to abandon the match.

Mr Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation (Fide), said he decided to call a halt "for the good of world chess".

Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, the 33-year-old champion, will meet again in September over 24 games at a venue to be decided.

Mr Campomanes said he was ending the match because of the psychological and physical strain on the players after 46 games in six months. Karpov, who built up a 5-0 lead, wilted visibly recently as the younger and more resilient Kasparov surged back to make the score 5-3.

The champion was said to be on the verge of a breakdown. But yesterday he also made a surprise appearance at the hotel in suburban Moscow, where the last two games have been played. He said he was ready to carry on. Rumours of his death "had been greatly exaggerated".

The challenger, an athletic and confident figure, put the slender and highly-strung Karpov under pressure by winning two successive games. On Wednesday, Mr Campomanes, who admitted he was close to Karpov, cancelled the 49th game after spending two days observing the players.

Continued on back page, col 1

THE TIMES 1785-1985

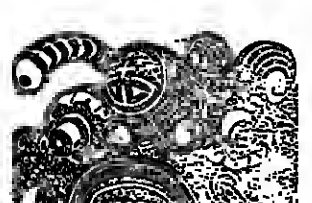
INSIDE



A sporting decade
Champions of the Thirties remembered
Page 29



Egyptian hot spot
Dusty indolence beside the Nile
Page 30



Soho's happy new year
The Chinese bring in the Year of the Ox
Page 35

Goodbye, Piccadilly
Head chef Quinn leaves the Ritz
Page 35

MONDAY



Britain's fighting forces
First of a series on the modern military machine

Peter Pan hospital
How Great Orm Street copes with the unbearable

Get ahead, Get a hat
Nifty tiffers are not only for the ostentatious

Self Employed? How the tax man could help you retire on £47,000 a year

If you are self-employed, you can obtain up to 60% tax relief on your premiums through an Equitable Life Pension Plan. There's no better way of planning for your retirement.

As an example, a man aged 34 on 60% tax could retire at 65 with £100,000 tax free and £47,917 gross every year for life. And it will only have cost him £12,400 net, assuming his tax relief remains at 60%.

Of course, the past cannot guarantee the future, but in an independent survey of with-profit pension plans we were more often than any other company.

One reason is because we cut out commission to middlemen. So all you have to do is cut out the coupon, or telephone 01-606 6611 for further details.

*Figures assume a premium each year of £1,000, and suppose that current annuity rates apply at the time, and that our current bonus rates including terminal bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed.

**December 1984 Planned Savings magazine summary tables of its survey of funds arising over the last 6 years from 10 and 20 year regular premium with profits policies.

Send to: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. I'd welcome further details on your Self-Employed Pension Plan with: ☐ Annual/Variable Premium ☐ Monthly Premiums ☐ Unit-linked based alternatives. (UK Residents only)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel: (Office) _____
Date of Birth _____ Tel: (Home) _____

The Equitable Life
The oldest mutual life office in the world.

Scope for telephone tapping widens

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Friends, contacts and accomplices of criminals and security suspects could have their telephones tapped and their mail intercepted under the terms of new government legislation published yesterday.

The Home Office made clear for the first time at the scope of warrants for telephone tapping and the interception of mail may cover the addresses and telephones of people who are "likely to be" in contact with a specified surveillance target, either a person or premises.

The 1980 White Paper, The Interception of Communications in Great Britain, said:

"As a general rule, each warrant names only one person and one address or telephone number."

But it added that a number of addresses or telephone numbers could be set out in a warrant when, occasionally, "a target of interception uses or operates from more than one address or telephone number."

The Government's new legislation, *Interception of Communications Bill*, which brings United Kingdom law into line with the European Convention on Human Rights, yesterday appeared to extend that scope of such warrants.

It said that warrants could be issued to intercept such com-

munications as are sent to or from one or more addresses specified in the warrant, being an address or addresses likely to be used for the transmission for communications to or from: (i) one particular person specified or described in the warrant; or (ii) one particular set of premises so specified and described."

That provision will also apply to the newly domestic acknowledged interception of domestic communications, ordered by the Foreign Secretary, for the purpose of safeguarding the economic well-being of the United Kingdom - when information is to be acquired relating exclusively

"to the acts or intentions of persons outside the British Islands."

A further complex subsection of the Bill appears to disclose the existence of warrants, specially certified by the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Northern Ireland Secretary or the Secretary of State for Scotland, to cover a class of material to be intercepted, relating to a specified area of activity.

The Bill suggests that certificated warrants could only identify target addresses to prevent or detect acts of terrorism.

Parliament, page 4

Synod shelve cruise issue indefinitely

The deployment of cruise missiles in Britain was not a matter on which it was competent to express an opinion, the General Synod of the Church of England decided yesterday. After two years of trying to reach a conclusion on cruise, the debate was indefinitely adjourned.

Several speakers complained of a lack of expert knowledge among synod members, which was needed, they argued, to evaluate how cruise missiles fitted into the overall pattern of deterrence.

Cruise debate, page 4
Leading article, letters, page 9

Prison officers say that four men in jail are suspected Aids sufferers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

As Prison Department chiefs sought yesterday to quell anxiety over a suspected victim of Aids in Camp Hill Prison, Isle of Wight, Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers Association, said there were three more suspects in jails.

The Camp Hill prisoner was transferred yesterday for tests, expected to last several days, in the infectious diseases unit of Southampton General Hospital.

Mr Steel maintained however, it was "99 per cent certain" that the prisoner had been an out-patient for Aids at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, but declined to make public the source of his information.

A number of patients with Aids attend the venereological unit, the largest in the country, at St Mary's Hospital. Some of them are being looked after as out-patients.

The Home Office said yesterday it had no knowledge of three other Aids suspects, who, Mr Steel said, "we are treating as possible until proved otherwise." Nor did the Home Office have knowledge of any attendance by the suspect at St Mary's.

There were unconfirmed reports that he had venereal

disease, but a Home Office official said: "I cannot help you there." The Hospital administrator at Southampton, Mr Stephen Campion, said: "I must stress at the moment that we do not know whether this man is an Aids victim."

Staff at Chelmsford Jail recently took action after the death from Aids of the Rev Gregory Richards, the prison chaplain, and stopped all transfers to and from other establishments. The ban was lifted last Friday.

A regional health authority spokesman said: "Aids is a serious disease but the alarm and panic in many ways is unjustified. It can be spread only through homosexual contact or infected blood."

One officer at Camp Hill said: "It is very frightening and everybody is very apprehensive."

In a statement, the Prison Department said that Dr John Kilgour, the director of prison medical services, had been in close touch with the DHSS. Staff had been informed that the risk of catching Aids was remote for anyone who was not in the high risk groups: homosexuals, intravenous drug abusers

and haemophiliacs. No one involved in either the American or the British health care of Aids had developed the disease as a result of their work.

"Guidelines on the handling of Aids cases in prisons are being prepared as a matter of urgency, and will be issued shortly," he said. "The Director of Prison Medical Services is making point of visiting establishments where a case of Aids has been diagnosed and either he or his deputies are visiting those other establishments where there is anxiety about the matter."

Mr Steel said the POA would be lobbying MPs to have Aids made a notifiable disease. "What we are concerned about is what happens if we have an Aids sufferer in prison, and he comes to the end of his sentence."

There was a higher proportion of drug users and homosexuals in prison than in the general community. Because of a shortage of syringes, if one came into a prison it would be used by a number of people. If a practising homosexual came into a prison, he did not stop practising. That could spread Aids.



Hint of a thaw: Mr Scargill arriving at TUC headquarters in London yesterday.



Key men: Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire miners (left); Mr Emyln Williams, South Wales president, and Mr Peter McNestry, Nacods general secretary.

Striking miners join police

By Peter Davenport

Several striking miners have left the picket line to join the police force.

During the past few months, they have attended courses at the Home Office training school at Dishforth, North Yorkshire. Some have graduated and joined forces policing the pits dispute in the coalfields.

The school said yesterday that it would not name the men in case of reprisals against their families in mining areas.

One man, on the course which ends at Easter, is a former face worker aged 24 at Manders colliery, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire. He was

on the picket line until two months ago.

Although not wishing to be named, he said he had supported the strike initially but had been sickened by the intimidation and violence.

"I never dreamed it was going to be like it has turned out when the strike first started. I went down to the picket lines to see what it was like and I didn't like what I saw. I think there has been a lot of violence by the miners on the picket lines, and intimidation."

"I had had enough of it when I saw there was planned violence by some. Initially I

appreciated the cause, but not the actions taken by the National Union of Mineworkers."

"If I was asked to go on picket duty now I would. It's my job and I am proud to be a policeman."

The mining communities have traditionally been recruiting grounds for the police.

The Home Office said last night that there were six miners on the present course at Dishforth, but it was not possible to say how many were former strikers or former working miners. Other miners had already graduated.

Receiver wants sequestration to end

Mr Justice Nicholls, who ordered the seizure of the National Union of Mineworkers' £8 million assets after its refusal to pay a £200,000 contempt of court fine was asked yesterday by the Receiver to end further sequestration.

With about £5 million in his possession, the Receiver asked for sequestrators appointed last October to be discharged to avoid duplication of costs.

His counsel, Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, said that enough expense had fallen on the

union's funds, "funds for which many miners innocent of contempt are interested."

But after fears expressed by the working Yorkshire miners' counsel, Mr Michael Burton QC, that lifting sequestration might lift the threat hanging over striking miners, Mr Cresswell said he would be content if the order was stayed.

The judge said he would give judgement on Monday.

● An injunction against leaders of the National Union of Seamen will be sought on

Monday (Barrie Clement writes).

The action, brought by a shipping company, Stephenson Clarke, was adjourned yesterday at a private hearing in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court in London.

It alleges that union members on the Pembrokeshire, moored at docks near Blyth, Northumberland, have acted illegally by refusing to open batches so that coal can be loaded for the Central Electricity Generating Board. Leading article, page 9

The Ponting trial Former top official says he alone sent case to DDP

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

As plans went ahead for the publication on Sunday of an article by Mr Clive Ponting which runs the risk of bringing him into renewed conflict with the Civil Service, a former senior Ministry of Defence official described in detail how he came to refer Mr Ponting's case to the Director of Public Prosecutions last August.

This led to Mr Ponting's appearance at the Central Criminal Court charged under the Official Secrets Act for passing confidential MoD documents to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Livingston.

On Monday Mr Ponting was acquitted by the jury, and the acquittal stimulated this week's renewed controversy over the circumstances of the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict in 1982. The issue is to be debated in the Commons on Monday.

Speaking on the BBC's *World at One* programme, Sir Ewen Broadbent, who until his retirement was Second Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, said that he alone was responsible for referring the Ponting case to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Sir Ewen said: "It was quite clear to me that in the light of what had been stated by him (Mr Ponting), in the light of his seniority and the nature of the subject matter there was a prima facie case for the DPP to be consulted before we proceeded administratively."

"Once the case was established it was clear there was a course of action either under the Official Secrets Act or the disciplinary process. The choice initially lay with the law officers."

Sir Ewen said he was not aware that Mr Ponting was ever offered the possibility that if he confessed and resigned from the Civil Service that would be the end of the matter.

But he thought it had to be borne in mind that at the end of

several days "Mr Ponting must have been a very worried man, and it must have been a period of great tension for him. He could well have thought in his own mind that if he wrote out his statement and at the same time wrote out his offer of resignation to the department, that would be the end of the matter."

Mr Ponting is still on the payroll of the Ministry of Defence, but on Thursday he was told that he would not be allowed to resume his duties there. The possibility of his being offered an alternative civil service post in a department which does not require access to classified information is under consideration.

At Thursday's meeting in the MOD Mr Ponting was warned that as a Civil Servant he must conform to the regulations governing Civil Servants' conduct. Those require permission to be obtained "before accepting an invitation or before entering into any commitment to publish a book, monograph, article or letter or to deliver any lecture or speech or taking part in any radio or television programme, in connection with his work or a matter of public controversy."

However, *The Observer* newspaper was yesterday proceeding with plans to publish tomorrow an extract from Mr Ponting's forthcoming book. It is understood that this has not been cleared with the Ministry of Defence. A spokesman for the paper said that they had realized all along that it was an extremely delicate matter, and they were taking into account every legal aspect.

Mr Ponting said he could not say whether the extract would appear in *The Observer* tomorrow. "There are many things going on," he said, but he refused to elaborate.

The Observer said there had not been any suggestion from Mr Ponting or his solicitor that the extract should not be published.

Thatcher issues blanket denial

The Prime Minister last night dismissed Mr Neil Kinnock's detailed interrogation about the role of ministers in the prosecution of Mr Clive Ponting with a blanket denial that there was any interference at any time in the process last August.

She pointed out in a further letter to the Labour leader that he had accepted that there was no ministerial involvement in the specific decision of the law officers to prosecute taken on Friday, August 17, but that he had questioned her assurance about involvement in the aftermath of Mr Ponting's admission of the leak the previous Friday.

Mrs Thatcher said: "Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter."

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Belgrano authors at Yard over Lewin interview

By Angela Gordon

Scotland Yard last launched an investigation into allegations that Lord Lewin, the former Chief of Defence Staff, may have breached the Official Secrets Act.

Commander R Dawling, of the serious crimes squad, acting on the instructions of the Director of Public Prosecutions, summoned Arthur Gavshon and Desmond Rice, authors of the *Sinking of the Belgrano*, to Scotland Yard for questioning on Thursday.

The move came after a Commons question, in which Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Cusick, Cumbria, asked whether Lord Lewin should be prosecuted for an interview he gave to the authors, which they say was on the record at his Suffolk home on January 29 last year.

In that according to Mr Gavshon, Lord Lewin how the HMS *Conqueror* would have shadowed the General Belgrano using hydrophonic towed arrays. When Mr Foulkes tabled the question in the House last month, the Ministry of Defence confirmed to *The Times* that anything that gives operational patterns of submarines would be classified.

Yesterday, Lord Lewin refused to comment on his alleged disclosures, saying only it was an "off-the-record interview".

Whitehall malaise, page 8

Levi chief puts case for closure

By Rupert Morris

Top management from Levi Strauss, the United States jeans manufacturers, will travel to Scotland next week to explain to shop stewards why they need to close two factories in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, making 422 people redundant.

A further 150 jobs are to go at administrative offices in Northampton and Wembley. The companies sales slumped last year, with new profit for the final quarter down from \$51.6 million dollars (about £47 million), or \$1.22 a share the previous year, to \$1.68 million, or five cents a share.

Levi Strauss work-force believes that the axe has fallen on it because its counterparts in France and Belgium have more favourable redundancy agreements.

Mr Neil Kearney, of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, said last night: "This is a case of lower labour costs meaning jobs being destroyed."

Mr Des Farrell, the union's area officer, said that when Mr Robin Dow, Levi's UK president, arrives in Scotland on Tuesday, he hopes he will consider other options to closure, such as part-time working. The company has praised the work-force at the plants at Bothwell, in Lanarkshire, and Inchinnan in Renfrewshire, for outstanding efficiency and productivity.

Judge says RUC invented evidence

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The evidence of three policemen involved in a killing was rejected by a judge at Belfast Crown Court yesterday because part of it had been "invented", and he had reservations about the credibility and accuracy of other parts of their testimony.

Lord Justice Basil Kelly sentenced Martin McCauley, aged 22, from Ballyneery, Co Armagh, to two years imprisonment, suspended for three years, after finding him guilty of possessing three old rifles in suspicious circumstances during an incident in which police shot dead his best friend. He was acquitted of possessing the rifles with intent to endanger life.

The judge was critical of senior RUC officers who ordered the three members of a specially trained unit to invent a story in their first statement, allegedly to protect the identity of a Special Branch informer.

It is the second time that the court has heard that members of a mobile support unit had been instructed to concoct stories surrounding controversial incidents in Armagh during the autumn of 1982, allegedly to protect the source of information.

The allegation of a cover-up made at the earlier trial of a police constable accused of murdering an unarmed terrorist during a similar undercover operation has led to an inquiry by officers from Greater Man-

chester. They monitored part of McCauley's trial.

McCauley was seriously injured in the shooting in November 1982 at an isolated house, three miles from Lurgan in which his best friend, Michael Tighe, aged 17, died. Three rifles which were old, rusty and corroded were found inside the shed, but there was no ammunition.

In his 43-minute reserved judgment, the judge said the three officers had "entered the arena of credibility under a cloud that included each of them knowingly making false allegations in their first written statement. There was not a word of truth in those statements. It was invented not by them but regrettably by one or more of their superiors, who told them they were obliged to say it, and under orders they did say it."

He said the officers had told the trial of Mr McCauley that they were giving a completely true account of what occurred, but the judge said he had doubts about whether this was so.

"Having regard to my reservations about the evidence of these three policemen I believe the proper course for me at this trial is to exclude their evidence and its implications for my consideration," he said. This is not to be taken to mean that I disbelieve their evidence entirely."

His counsel, Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, said that enough expense had fallen on the

union's funds, "funds for which many miners innocent of contempt are interested."

But after fears expressed by the working Yorkshire miners' counsel, Mr Michael Burton QC, that lifting sequestration might lift the threat hanging over striking miners, Mr Cresswell said he would be content if the order was stayed.

The judge said he would give judgement on Monday.

● An injunction against leaders of the National Union of Seamen will be sought on

Monday (Barrie Clement writes).

The action, brought by a shipping company, Stephenson Clarke, was adjourned yesterday at a private hearing in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court in London.

It alleges that union members on the Pembrokeshire, moored at docks near Blyth, Northumberland, have acted illegally by refusing to open batches so that coal can be loaded for the Central Electricity Generating Board. Leading article, page 9

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

Ministers were not involved at any stage in the law officers' decision to prosecute Mr Ponting and did not seek to influence their decision either directly or indirectly by any of the means implied in the 16 questions attached to your letter. If you want these matters to be pursued, there is a full opportunity for debate on Monday. Yours sincerely Margaret Thatcher.

Meanwhile the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance yesterday capitalized on the rift between the Government and the Opposition by announcing that they would amalgamate the Conservative and Labour motions if given the chance in Monday's Commons debate.

The government motion says "That this house recognizes that the sinking of the General Belgrano was a necessary and legitimate action in the Falklands campaign, and agrees that the protection of our Armed Forces must be the prime consideration in determining how far matters involving national security and the conduct of military operations can be disclosed."

FUR-End of season Sellout
Last Opportunity

ONE DAY ONLY

THE SUNDAY FEB 17th

Mink-Ross Furriers will have one of the largest and most beautiful collections of furs to be seen in London—

Mink jackets Mink Coats from £195 to £850 ALL DRASTICALLY REDUCED - LONDON LABEL -

Blackheads - ENBAMINK SAGA MINK SAGA FOX

Tax Free for Overseas Customers

Sale of Sales! The Best Styles, The Best Quality at prices less than today's costs!

A huge range of furs, Coyote, Lynx, Raccoon etc. Examples Raccoon coats from £995 jackets from £390 Silver Fox coats from £1950 jackets from £895 Blue Fox jackets from £399

'Must be the best value in the Country'

Holiday Inn, Mayfair, Berkeley St., London W1
Selling this Sunday Feb 17th 9am-5.30pm

A family firm for over 90 years. Members of the British Fur Trade Association. All fur fully guaranteed. Buy from Yorkshire's leading manufacturers.

LICENSED CREDIT BROKERS
WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE

Ross Furriers
34, Lands Lane, Leeds 1. Telephone 0532 452479

Pan Am will not settle over Laker

By Our Transport Editor

Pan American, a leading defendant in the £1,000 million action brought by Laker interests, will not follow British Airways in seeking an early out-of-court settlement, the airline made clear yesterday.

British Airways, whose planned privatization is threatened by a possible massive damages claim for conspiring to put Laker out of business in 1981, has had a number of meetings with creditors in recent weeks, and is believed to be offering about £50 million to avoid continuation of the action in United States courts.

But Pan Am, one of the biggest of nine other airlines involved in the action, is "in no hurry to settle". Mr Pete Runnette, vice-president of the airline's Atlantic division said yesterday: "We are quite confident there is no case against

us," Mr Runnette said at a London press conference. "We are innocent, and if it goes to court, we will be exonerated on the merits of the case," he said.

BA's privatization was originally planned to go to the market this week, but has already been put back until the summer as a result of Laker moves, and may even have moved back until next year. Other airlines involved, including British Caledonian, Swissair, Sabena, and KLM, are under no such pressure however.

Mr Runnette was reporting a \$207 million loss for 1984, the airline's highest except for 1981, when it was almost double that. But it was caused largely by repositioning for the remainder of the 1980s, and could lead to a profit this year.

Museum pays £2,420 for historical clue

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The National Museum of Wales spent £2,420 at Sotheby's yesterday on an art historical clue, a late seventeenth century Flemish tapestry in poor condition depicting the appearance of Romulus to Proculus Julius. It is the only tapestry that has so far come to light which was clearly woven from the tapestry cartoons bought by the museum in 1979 for £1.2 million as the work of Rubens.

The purchase of the cartoons has stirred up a fierce controversy in Wales as a number of eminent scholars have taken the view that they are only by a minor follower of Rubens, rather than the master himself. Dr Peter Cannon-Brookes, the keeper of art, strongly maintains that they are authentic, but the museum governors, worried by accusations of wasted money, voted last October for an independent inquiry into their authenticity and a number of "independent" scholars are in the process of being recruited.

One of the areas of controversy has been the subject matter of the mythological cartoons which Dr Cannon-Brookes has described as an Aeneas cycle. Its title is woven into the tapestry and shoots down the Aeneas idea. Cannon-Brookes suggests that it is not the first weaving and that when this late weaving was done they may have forgotten the title.

No scholarly tapestry experts have yet studied the piece. If they can identify the factory which it comes from, documentation of the commissioning of the cartoons might be found - and the citizens of Wales relieved of their uncertainty. The tapestry, probably dating from the late seventeenth century, had been estimated by Sotheby's at £1,200 to £1,500.

Sotheby's routine sale of Continental furniture and tapestries totalled £152,768, with 13 per cent unsold.

Christie's were holding the last of a historic series of sales devoted to the Chinese por-

Sale room

One of the areas of controversy has been the subject matter of the mythological cartoons which Dr Cannon-Brookes has described as an Aeneas cycle. Its title is woven into the tapestry and shoots down the Aeneas idea. Cannon-Brookes suggests that it is not the first weaving and that when this late weaving was done they may have forgotten the title.

No scholarly tapestry experts have yet studied the piece. If they can identify the factory which it comes from, documentation of the commissioning of the cartoons might be found - and the citizens of Wales relieved of their uncertainty. The tapestry, probably dating from the late seventeenth century, had been estimated by Sotheby's at £1,200 to £1,500.

Sotheby's routine sale of Continental furniture and tapestries totalled £152,768, with 13 per cent unsold.

Christie's were holding the last of a historic series of sales devoted to the Chinese por-

celain recovered from a junk which sank in the South China Sea in about 1643. It carried an enormous volume of porcelain probably destined for shipment to Europe.

The first 2,000 or so pieces were sold in Amsterdam last March for £540,761, with prices running five and 10 times beyond estimates. This persuaded Captain Hatcher to sell most of the rest and some 18,000 pieces were sold in June for £978,528. He had kept back 300 pieces, including rarities, as a private collection, but the success of the June sale persuaded him to sell these also and they were offered in Amsterdam yesterday.

The sale made £291,464 with every lot sold.

Law on way over labelling food fats

By Tony Samstag

Legislation is to be introduced requiring food manufacturers to include detailed fat content on their labels, a Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods official said yesterday.

Mr C. A. Cockbill, assistant secretary in the food standards division, said that ministerial announcement was likely by the end of next month. The Government favoured a system of "statutory comprehensive informative labelling" rather than symbols, he added.

Mr Cockbill told a conference of the Cakes and Biscuits Alliance in London that the labels would carry details of both the total fat content and the specific type of fat as recommended in the report last July by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (Coma).

As a new labelling system would apply to imported food,

he hoped that the EEC would approve it. Britain was leading the way with what could become "a most useful blueprint" for the community because of its incidence of coronary heart disease, now killing more than 150,000 people a year, was the highest in the EEC.

The Coma report echoed the findings of a long-term study in the United States linking heart disease and diet.

The Cakes and Biscuits Alliance represents British biscuit and packaged cake manufacturers, with annual sales of £1.2 billion by members.

Mr Richard Gassick, chairman of the conference, saw in the labelling legislation a "challenge" to develop products "with high fibre, low salt, low fat (polyunsaturated) and high protein, which are both appealing and exciting".

Businessman sold technology to E Germany

A businessman who illegally exported high technology equipment for making microchips to East Germany was given a suspended six months prison sentence at Warwick Crown Court yesterday.

Bramwell John Pridmore-Smith, aged 56, of Mallow Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire, pleaded guilty to four charges of exporting equipment to the Eastern block in contravention of export restrictions.

Conservative council seeks injunction to stop teachers' no-cover action

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Solihull Borough Council is almost certain to take the largest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, to the High Court next week for alleged breach of contract to stop its no-cover policy in schools.

That is expected to be a test case, forcing the union to order its 235,000 members to call off the action or hold a secret ballot about the action. Other authorities are pleased that the West Midlands Council has had the courage to take on the union.

The union has been given until 4pm on Monday to call off the industrial action, refusing to cover for absent colleagues or to attend parent or staff meetings.

Mr Colin Humphrey, Solihull's director of education, said that if the action was not called off, the policy committee would be asked to authorize the seeking of an injunction next week.

It was confirmed that the council is also taking action against the second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. A letter was sent to the union yesterday, asking it to abandon a half-day strike planned for February 26.

The intention of the council, a hawkish safe Conservative authority, is to sue the unions for breach of contract. It claims that the unions are in breach of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1984 because they have not held ballots for their action. If Solihull is correct, the unions are liable for damages if they are sued successfully.

The council has taken legal advice from Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, who represented Austin-Rover last year in the first case under the Act. The company won its case against unions which took industrial action without holding a ballot.

Mr Fred Jarvis, NUT general secretary, says that a ballot is not required for withdrawal of goodwill because the duties are voluntary. He says the union will not comply with Solihull's deadline.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NASUWT, said the union had taken legal advice. "We realized we might be sued."

The legal action will not affect the NUT's proposed campaign of rolling three-day strikes, beginning on February 25, because it is balloting members about these. But the employers hope it will clear up which teachers' duties are voluntary and which part of the contract.

It was partly to encourage such a test case that the Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board wrote to all councils on February 5, saying they might need to consider legal action against the NUT. The letter stated that the councils could seek an injunction to stop the industrial action and/or seek damages.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, board secretary, wrote: "In our view the NUT does not have legal immunity for the industrial action it has called, where it breaks or interferes with the contracts of employment of the teachers, as it had not been approved by a ballot of its members."

"In addition, industrial action such as this could lead to breaches of statutory duty by a local education authority. Individuals particularly affected by the non-provision of services, for example parents, may try and bring an injunction against the authority, or claim damages."

Mr Harmsworth, who lives in Chelsea, south-west London, is famed for his good nature and razor sharp wit on the bench, his outspoken and humorous remarks often making headlines.

These qualities make him unique as a magistrate and, at a special sitting of the court on Friday, they were praised by Mr. Timothy Lawrence, a solicitor, and on behalf of the chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, by Mr James Bullen, a barrister.

Mr Bullen recalled the case of a demonstrator on a public order charge which Mr Harmsworth dismissed, saying: "Egg throwing is a time-honoured tradition in British political life."

"You have shown a compassion for people which goes far beyond that shown by your colleagues," Mr Bullen said.

In 1976 Mr Harmsworth made legal history when he became the first British magistrate to refer a case to the European Court of Justice for clarification on his powers to deport a Frenchman on drugs charges. The Luxembourg judges eventually ruled against deportation of a Common Market national from a member state.

He sat at Marlborough Street 18 years ago and Mr. Hopkins, himself a former Marlborough Street magistrate, as was his father, Daniel Hopkins, paid the tribute: "He has probably left a much greater mark on this court than any other magistrate who sat here."

A specially commissioned watercolour painting of the courthouse was presented to Mr Harmsworth by the artist, Evelyn Griffiths, on behalf of his staff.

Mr Harmsworth, who lives in Chelsea, south-west London, is famed for his good nature and razor sharp wit on the bench, his outspoken and humorous remarks often making headlines.

These qualities make him unique as a magistrate and, at a special sitting of the court on Friday, they were praised by Mr. Timothy Lawrence, a solicitor, and on behalf of the chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, by Mr James Bullen, a barrister.

Mr Bullen recalled the case of a demonstrator on a public order charge which Mr Harmsworth dismissed, saying: "Egg throwing is a time-honoured tradition in British political life."

"You have shown a compassion for people which goes far beyond that shown by your colleagues," Mr Bullen said.

In 1976 Mr Harmsworth made legal history when he became the first British magistrate to refer a case to the European Court of Justice for clarification on his powers to deport a Frenchman on drugs charges. The Luxembourg judges eventually ruled against deportation of a Common Market national from a member state.



Robing time for a judge

Miss Valerie Anne Pearlman, who was sworn in as a circuit court judge by the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords yesterday, being prepared by her son, Jonathan, and her daughter, Rachel, Judge Pearlman was educated at Wycombe Abbey School and called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1958. She was approved to sit as a deputy circuit judge in 1976, and has been a crown court recorder since 1982. She has been assigned to the south-eastern circuits.

She is married to Professor Michael Besser (right), the leading endocrinologist, who was appointed Professor of Endocrinology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, in 1974.

Judge Pearlman gives her hobbies in Who's Who as gardening, painting and reading. She lives in London.

The judge told them it was a choice between the defendant, Graham Backhouse, or his dead neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor.

Yesterday, the fifteenth day of the trial, Mr Justice Stuart-Smith began summing up. He told the jury it was up to the Crown to prove that it was Mr Backhouse who was responsible for the bombing. It was not for the defendant to prove his innocence.

The issue on the killing was whether it was unlawful. "Killing in self defence is not unlawful," he said.

"The choice of the villain in this case is between Mr Backhouse and Mr Bedale-Taylor."

"Either it was Mr Backhouse... or it was Mr Bedale-Taylor who planted the bomb and made a confession to Mr Backhouse on April 30."

Mr Backhouse, aged 44, has pleaded not guilty at Bristol Crown Court to attempting to murder his wife, Maggie, in a car bomb explosion at their Cotswold farm on April 9 last year.

He has pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge that he caused her grievous bodily harm with intent, and has also denied murdering Mr Bedale-Taylor three weeks later.

The Crown alleges that Mr Backhouse wanted to kill his wife to claim £100,000 insurance, and shot Mr Bedale-Taylor after making him the "scapegoat" for the bombing by pointing blame at him.

Mr Backhouse denies being responsible for the bomb planted in the family Volvo and says he shot Mr Bedale-Taylor in self defence after he confronted him at the Backhouse farm at Horton, near Bristol.

The jury will consider its verdicts on Monday.

Mr Paul Raymond, the Soho impresario, has announced that his £2 million "Theatre of War" at the Whitehall theatre, London, will close temporarily from tomorrow night. He said he was awaiting the result of an appeal against an enforcement order by Westminster City Council, which says "Theatre of War" is an exhibition, not theatre, and must close.

Summers, of The Crescent, New Malden, south-west London, and David Newton, aged 20, of Earle Gardens, Kingston, were each ordered to do 140 hours community service.

James Page, aged 22, of Beaufort Road, Kingston, was put on probation for two years.

They pleaded guilty to two burglaries, the second one at the home of Mr Robert Clark, and his wife, Grace, at Laburnum Grove, New Malden, when arrested in July.

The Clarks arrived home and found their television and video stuck in the hall. They crept away to rouse their neighbours and a dozen vigilantes, armed with sticks and brooms, returned to trap the raiders inside.

The case has been brought by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

After the visit, a zoo inspector, Miss Winifred Branker, told the court that conditions at the farm were good. A dehydrated monkey might have been exhausted by frequent mating.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Council is accused over damp flat death

The grandfather of a boy aged six who spent three nights in a flat with his dead mother said yesterday that local authorities could have prevented his ordeal.

Mr Harvey Cairns said dampness in his daughter's flat had "gone a long way towards her death," but the local council had done nothing to improve the flat and social workers rarely visited.

Mrs Kathy Rayson, a divorcee, who would have been 29 yesterday, died from bronchial pneumonia in her council flat in Longford Road, Bognor Regis.

Adrian Rayson tried to revive his mother. He pulled her from her bed, piled his clothes and an eiderdown on top of her and switched on an electric fire to keep her warm.

He turned on the television and increased the volume in the hope that the noise would bring her round.

Mr Cairns found the boy and his dead mother when he called at the flat four days later.

Mrs Rayson, who was partly paralysed and received invalidity benefit, could not afford to keep the flat warm, Mr Cairns said. "When we went into the place after she died we found sheets dripping with damp."

The boy, who is staying with an aunt, was back at school yesterday. "He is still bewildered and a bit pale," Mr Cairns said.

Last night, Arun District Council said that Mrs Rayson had made no complaints about dampness and had not told the council about her disability.

West Sussex County Council said social workers had visited the boy and his mother regularly. "They considered their home to be satisfactory."

Mrs Jeannette Baker, aged 27, and her son Brian Tones, aged four, died in a fire which destroyed their house in Queen Street, in the village of Grange Villa, Co Durham yesterday.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

Home trial wife fined for false accounting

Mr Maxwell Tillings, aged 46, owner of an old people's home, was cleared at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday of charges in the case of an elderly resident's £100,000 will.

But his wife, aged 39, was found guilty of giving Mrs Norah Kirby, aged 84, Valium and Normyson tablets without authority and drawing up a false account for £140 to pay for a private nurse to look after another elderly woman living at the Cabin Court Lodge home in Margate, Kent. She was fined £275.

Mr Tillings was cleared on nine charges of theft, attempted theft, deception and administering drugs to Mrs Kirby to confuse her and make her change her £100,000 will in their favour. She died in 1982.

The jury was told that Mrs Kirby, who was secretary to the composer, Dr John Ireland, changed her will five days before she died. Dr Ireland left her royalties from his work and Mrs Kirby had arranged for a trust to be set up with the money.

Mr Justice Mann, directed the jury to acquit the couple on seven of the 18 charges, all of which they denied.

He told the jury: "You must not assume guilt because the defendants have not given evidence. Norah Kirby found comfort and happiness at Cabin Court Lodge derived from the willingness of both Mr and Mrs Tillings to perform tasks for the old lady."

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

South African golfers will be able to take part in this year's Glasgow Open in August at Hags Castle.

The City's Labour administration has decided to accept a written declaration by the Professional Golfers' Association that it is a body against apartheid in sport.

Popular magistrate retires after 24 years

St Valentine's night marked the end of a special romance between London's most popular magistrate and his court.

Mr St John "Mr Marlborough Street" Harmsworth, aged 71, was celebrating his retirement after 24 years as a stipendiary magistrate. Eleven magistrates, two judges and top lawyers were among the guests at the party.

Mr David Hopkins, chief metropolitan magistrate, said that Harrow and Oxford-educated Mr Harmsworth, a wartime Lieutenant commander, in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, "went with his L plates" to Bow Street Court when first appointed a magistrate in 1961, then moved to Greenwich.

He sat at Marlborough Street 18 years ago and Mr. Hopkins, himself a former Marlborough Street magistrate, as was his father, Daniel Hopkins, paid the tribute: "He has probably left a much greater mark on this court than any other magistrate who sat here."

A specially commissioned watercolour painting of the courthouse was presented to Mr Harmsworth by the artist, Evelyn Griffiths, on behalf of his staff.

Mr Harmsworth, who lives in Chelsea, south-west London, is famed for his good nature and razor sharp wit on the bench, his outspoken and humorous remarks often making headlines.

These qualities make him unique as a magistrate and, at a special sitting of the court on Friday, they were praised by Mr. Timothy Lawrence, a solicitor, and on behalf of the chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, by Mr James Bullen, a barrister.

Mr Bullen recalled the case of a demonstrator on a public order charge which Mr Harmsworth dismissed, saying: "Egg throwing is a time-honoured tradition in British political life."

"You have shown a compassion for people which goes far beyond that shown by your colleagues," Mr Bullen said.

In 1976 Mr Harmsworth made legal history when he became the first British magistrate to refer a case to the European Court of Justice for clarification on his powers to deport a Frenchman on drugs charges. The Luxembourg judges eventually ruled against deportation of a Common Market national from a member state.

He sat at Marlborough Street 18 years ago and Mr. Hopkins, himself a former Marlborough Street magistrate, as was his father, Daniel Hopkins, paid the tribute: "He has probably left a much greater mark on this court than any other magistrate who sat here."

A specially commissioned watercolour painting of the courthouse was presented to Mr Harmsworth by the artist, Evelyn Griffiths, on behalf of his staff.

Mr Harmsworth, who lives in Chelsea, south-west London, is famed for his good nature and razor sharp wit on the bench, his outspoken and humorous remarks often making headlines.

These qualities make him unique as a magistrate and, at a special sitting of the court on Friday, they were praised by Mr. Timothy Lawrence, a solicitor, and on behalf of the chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, by Mr James Bullen, a barrister.

Mr Bullen recalled the case of a demonstrator on a public order charge which Mr Harmsworth dismissed, saying: "Egg throwing is a time-honoured tradition in British political life."

"You have shown a compassion for people which goes far beyond that shown by your colleagues," Mr Bullen said.

In 1976 Mr Harmsworth made legal history when he became the first British magistrate to refer a case to the European Court of Justice for clarification on his powers to deport a Frenchman on drugs charges. The Luxembourg judges eventually ruled against deportation of a Common Market national from a member state.

He sat at Marlborough Street 18 years ago and Mr. Hopkins, himself a former Marlborough Street magistrate, as was his father, Daniel Hopkins, paid the tribute: "He has probably left a much greater mark on this court than any other magistrate who sat here."

A specially commissioned watercolour painting of the courthouse was presented to Mr Harmsworth by the artist, Evelyn Griffiths, on behalf of his staff.

Jury asked: 'Who is the villain'

The jury in the farmhouse car bomb trial was asked yesterday to decide who was the villain in the case.

The judge told them it was a choice between the defendant, Graham Backhouse, or his dead neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor.

Yesterday, the fifteenth day of the trial, Mr Justice Stuart-Smith began summing up. He told the jury it was up to the Crown to prove that it was Mr Backhouse who was responsible for the bombing. It was not for the defendant to prove his innocence.

The issue on the killing was whether it was unlawful. "Killing in self defence is not unlawful," he said.

"The choice of the villain in this case is between Mr Backhouse and Mr Bedale-Taylor."

"Either it was Mr Backhouse... or it was Mr Bedale-Taylor who planted the bomb and made a confession to Mr Backhouse on April 30."

Mr Backhouse, aged 44, has pleaded not guilty at Bristol Crown Court to attempting to murder his wife, Maggie, in a car bomb explosion at their Cotswold farm on April 9 last year.

He has pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge that he caused her grievous bodily harm with intent, and has also denied murdering Mr Bedale-Taylor three weeks later.

The Crown alleges that Mr Backhouse wanted to kill his wife to claim £100,000 insurance, and shot Mr Bedale-Taylor after making him the "scapegoat" for the bombing by pointing blame at him.

Mr Backhouse denies being responsible for the bomb planted in the family Volvo and says he shot Mr Bedale-Taylor in self defence after he confronted him at the Backhouse farm at Horton, near Bristol.

The jury will consider its verdicts on Monday.

Mr Paul Raymond, the Soho impresario, has announced that his £2 million "Theatre of War" at the Whitehall theatre, London, will close temporarily from tomorrow night. He said he was awaiting the result of an appeal against an enforcement order by Westminster City Council, which says "Theatre of War" is an exhibition, not theatre, and must close.

Summers, of The Crescent, New Malden, south-west London, and David Newton, aged 20, of Earle Gardens, Kingston, were each ordered to do 140 hours community service.

James Page, aged 22, of Beaufort Road, Kingston, was put on probation for two years.

They pleaded guilty to two burglaries, the second one at the home of Mr Robert Clark, and his wife, Grace, at Laburnum Grove, New Malden, when arrested in July.

The Clarks arrived home and found their television and video stuck in the hall. They crept away to rouse their neighbours and a dozen vigilantes, armed with sticks and brooms, returned to trap the raiders inside.

The case has been brought by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

After the visit, a zoo inspector, Miss Winifred Branker, told the court that conditions at the farm were good. A dehydrated monkey might have been exhausted by frequent mating.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Building society in cash link

By Richard Thomson

The Abbey National, Britain's second largest building society, yesterday unveiled its new Abbeylink cash dispenser machines. Starting in May, the society will install 200 machines in Abbey National branches and some retail stores, so far those in the House of Fraser and the F. & E. stores.

The society's six million depositors may apply for Abbeylink cards from next month.

The society is the largest participant in the Link shared cash dispenser network being launched this year. Other system members include the National Giro and Co-Operative banks, Nationwide Building Society, American Express and some smaller building societies.

The network aims to install about 4,000 machines by the end of 1986, with the Abbey National the "largest single contributor."

The society's machines will be operated initially in the South-East of England. Extra facilities will include the ability to take deposits of cash and cheques.

Burglars trapped by neighbours sentenced

Residents formed a vigilante group when burglars raided a neighbour's home, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

They surrounded the house and challenged the burglars to come out and face them. But the three raiders were so terrified they refused to leave the house until police arrived to protect them from the neighbours' fury.

Mr Recorder John Wright, QC, said: "There is no doubt that they thought they were all going to get roughed up."

Andrew Summers, aged 20, got a punch on the nose from one woman neighbour as he was escorted from the house. He said: "She was perfectly justified, but we were terribly frightened when we saw them."

Magistrates at Bromley in Kent, hearing a case involving alleged cruelty to five monkeys yesterday visited the farm where the offences were said to have taken place.

The Buckton Browne Farm at Downe, near Orpington, Kent, is run by the Royal College of Surgeons, which denies maltreating five Macaque monkeys.

The case has been brought by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

After the visit, a zoo inspector, Miss Winifred Branker, told the court that conditions at the farm were good. A dehydrated monkey might have been exhausted by frequent mating.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Looking for a higher rate of interest with immediate access? Try Anglia's Capital Share Account.

- ▲ No other major building society can offer a better combination.
- ▲ Interest is 9.25% net per annum which is equivalent to 13.21% gross to basic rate tax payers.
- ▲ A monthly income option is available on investments over £1,000.
- ▲ If you leave half-yearly interest in the account, the

effective annual rate is 9.46% net p.a. equivalent to 13.51% gross.

▲ You can have immediate access, with only one month's loss of interest on the amount withdrawn.

▲ With £10,000 balance left in the account, you can withdraw your money immediately with no penalty.

All you need is £500 to open an account.

9.25% NET P.A.

ANGLIA BUILDING SOCIETY

The building society that cares about what you want.

Palestinians in Sidon camp promise peace when troops leave

From Robert Fisk, Ein Helwe camp, Sidon

There are earthen barricades going up around Ein Helwe and the underground shelters are being cleared out. The 35,000 Palestinians living in the slums of the Sidon refugee camp have promised to keep the peace when Israeli troops leave the city this weekend.

The Palestinians have told the Lebanese authorities here that they will neither attack Christians living on the hills above them nor engage in a fratricidal war between pro-Arafat and anti-Arafat Palestine Liberation Organization factions.

A 10-man Popular Committee made up of both groups from the camp, yesterday trooped into the Sidon camp to talk to Colonel Assad Dagher. At the half-hour meeting, a short, dark-haired man



Mr Arafat Cash sent to Palestinians.

a blue jacket, who gave his name as Abu Saeed, announced that his people will not attack any political group in the area and will respect Lebanese government authority.

Mr Abu Saeed was more vague when I spoke with him afterwards. While insisting there was no division between PLO factions inside the camp, in itself an incredible claim, he

hesitated when I asked if armed PLO guerrillas rather than Lebanese troops would be on guard outside the camp in a month's time. "Perhaps no and perhaps yes" was all he said.

In fact, the inhabitants of Ein Helwe have been restoring and re-stocking their deep underground bunkers in case the camp comes under siege by Christian militiamen or under Israeli air attack. Young men have thrown up earthen barricades around approaches to the camp. One of them, which ran between Ein Helwe and the Christian Phalangist suburb of Darb Seem, was smashed down by an Israeli tank on Thursday.

A curious thing to do since the movement could have been used only if Christians attacked Palestinians in the area. The Israelis have left other barricades intact.

Furthermore Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, appears to have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure that Ein Helwe remains firmly in the hands of his supporters and not those of the pro-Syrian Abu Moussa PLO group.

Sources in the camp say that Mr Arafat, before leaving Tunis for Romania this week, sent a large quantity of funds to a PLO account in a French bank in Sidon, money which is now being distributed in the camp.

The sources say that 2,000 Lebanese pounds (about £133) is being given to every married man in Ein Helwe and 1,000 Lebanese pounds to single men.

In the camp, this sort of money goes a long way. If Mr Arafat intends buying off his opponents in Sidon, however, members of Ein Helwe's committee agreed yesterday that there are hundreds of Palestinian guerrillas who fled the camp during the 1982 Israeli invasion and will now return to be with their families.

These men are now in the Bekaa valley and despite Mr Abu Saeed's claim that there are no guns in Ein Helwe, young men - apparently Arafat supporters - are carrying weapons in the camp at night.

Colonel Dagher made few comments as he listened to the Palestinian delegation in his office. "Some of our own Palestinian leaders, like George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, are Christians," Mr Abu Saeed told him. "So if we were to attack the Christians here, we would have to kill our leaders first."

Such emotions did not stop the PLO from killing a very large number of Christians during the civil war in Lebanon. However Mr Abu Saeed grew more serious when he demanded the right of Palestinians in Ein Helwe to travel freely to Beirut. "We want to be able to go to Beirut without problems. We want to have the right to work in Sidon. There are no problems in Ein Helwe."

Afterwards, he told The Times: "Our people are not for one group or another, for Arafat or Abu Moussa. Leaders are not gods. But we are for the PLO. And the Lebanese Government must treat us as humans."

Lebanon's soldiers are indeed now gathering for their advance into Sidon. As nervous Israeli troops continued to fire into the air over the heads of dozens of civilians on the Awali river yesterday, Lebanese Army tanks and armoured personnel carriers were parked a few hundred yards to the north.

Nevertheless, it looks as if the soldiers will not enter Ein Helwe. Earlier by a force of 200 Israelis. About 60 of the villagers were taken away for questioning about recent ambushes in the area near the occupied city of Tyre.

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Unifil, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, has registered an official complaint with the Israeli Army about an incident in the south Lebanese village of Burj Rahhal on Thursday, in which French UN troops and Israeli soldiers were involved in a fist-fight.

A UN spokesman said yesterday that it happened when the French unit attempted to disperse Israeli soldiers with a bulldozer from demolishing a house in the Shia Muslim village raided

earlier by a force of 200 Israelis. About 60 of the villagers were taken away for questioning about recent ambushes in the area near the occupied city of Tyre.

The spokesman said the UN soldiers regarded it as part of their peace-keeping mandate to prevent the home being bulldozed, but they were outnumbered and forced from the scene by the Israelis, who destroyed a community centre and three houses of suspected guerrillas.

The Israelis are unrepentant about the incident, which has revived much of the suspicion

felt by officials here about the role being played by Unifil in southern Lebanon. Officers told Israeli radio of their disappointment at the behaviour of the Unifil men, claiming they would have been better employed "preventing terrorist activity".

It is understood that a report sent by Unifil commanders to UN headquarters in New York supported the action of the French soldiers.

In a separate development, the Israeli Army announced yesterday that an investigation had been launched into an incident in Lebanon on Wednesday, when it is alleged that an Israeli captain fired deliberately at a car containing an NBC correspondent and a film crew. No one was injured.

Yesterday executives of the NBC and CBS networks in the US were reported to have sent letters of protest to Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mr Lawrence Grossman, NBC news president, was quoted as describing the incident, which took place near the Awali river crossing, as outrageous and demanding that the Israeli concerned should be severely reprimanded.

After running for about two hours, he met some Syrian soldiers. He believed at least four others were being held in the same building but did not know who they were.

Syria gives escaped TV man to Americans

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Jeremy Levin, the American television journalist who escaped after nearly a year of captivity in Lebanon, was turned over to US custody yesterday in Damascus.

The Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Farouk al-Sharaa, presented Mr Levin to the American Ambassador, Mr William Eagleton. The journalist was later flown to Frankfurt for a reunion with his family.

Mr Levin had been working as the Beirut bureau chief for Cable News network when he disappeared on March 7 last year from his flat in west Beirut, the Muslim sector. He said he had been held in a block of flats somewhere in the Bekaa Valley, which is under Syrian control. He never knew who his captors were. "They were holding me for something. They didn't kill me. But I don't know why they were holding me."

The shadowy Islamic Jihad organization claimed it was holding Mr Levin and four other Americans.

The journalist described his escape as "the usual cliché". He slipped loose from his chains late on Wednesday night, tied three blankets together and slid down the wall.

After running for about two hours, he met some Syrian soldiers. He believed at least four others were being held in the same building but did not know who they were.

Unifil protests to Israelis over village punch-up

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Unifil, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, has registered an official complaint with the Israeli Army about an incident in the south Lebanese village of Burj Rahhal on Thursday, in which French UN troops and Israeli soldiers were involved in a fist-fight.

A UN spokesman said yesterday that it happened when the French unit attempted to disperse Israeli soldiers with a bulldozer from demolishing a house in the Shia Muslim village raided

earlier by a force of 200 Israelis. About 60 of the villagers were taken away for questioning about recent ambushes in the area near the occupied city of Tyre.

The spokesman said the UN soldiers regarded it as part of their peace-keeping mandate to prevent the home being bulldozed, but they were outnumbered and forced from the scene by the Israelis, who destroyed a community centre and three houses of suspected guerrillas.

The Israelis are unrepentant about the incident, which has revived much of the suspicion

felt by officials here about the role being played by Unifil in southern Lebanon. Officers told Israeli radio of their disappointment at the behaviour of the Unifil men, claiming they would have been better employed "preventing terrorist activity".

It is understood that a report sent by Unifil commanders to UN headquarters in New York supported the action of the French soldiers.

In a separate development, the Israeli Army announced yesterday that an investigation had been launched into an incident in Lebanon on Wednesday, when it is alleged that an Israeli captain fired deliberately at a car containing an NBC correspondent and a film crew. No one was injured.

Yesterday executives of the NBC and CBS networks in the US were reported to have sent letters of protest to Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mr Lawrence Grossman, NBC news president, was quoted as describing the incident, which took place near the Awali river crossing, as outrageous and demanding that the Israeli concerned should be severely reprimanded.

After running for about two hours, he met some Syrian soldiers. He believed at least four others were being held in the same building but did not know who they were.

The great rate. Now it's even greater.



Lebanon insists on going it alone after pullout

From Zdzislaw Pysarski, New York

Lebanon has refused to take any formal steps in the United Nations Security Council to accept a peacekeeping role for the world body in Sidon after the Israelis have left.

Within the next 48 hours, Beirut is insisting that the Lebanese Army will be alone, and this has tied the hands of the Security Council. Even efforts to take symbolic measures over the predictions of civil chaos have been thwarted.

Diplomats see Syria as the compelling force behind the Lebanese bravado. There is some hope that it is nothing more than diplomatic brinkmanship with the departing Israeli and at the last moment a strong UN contingent will be sent to replace the Israeli troops.

There have been attempts by some members of the Security Council to vilify Syria and shame it into allowing Lebanon to make the crucial request for assistance.

But there is a more prevalent view that Syria, in pursuing its role as power-broker in Lebanon and thus strengthening its influence in the wider Middle

East arena, simply does not want UN troops in the way.

Since it views a subservient Lebanon as vital to its interests, Syria may be blocking a UN presence in Sidon in the same way that it prevented a UN force from entering Beirut last year to replace the besieged multinational forces.

Damascus would like to be the one to control the level of violence in Sidon. Scenarios are being suggested of Syria coming to the rescue and gaining even further leverage.

Syria's dominance in Lebanon provoked the creation of a moderate Arab axis of Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. Diplomats believe Monday's agreement between King Hassan of Jordan and Mr Yasser Arafat will only make Syria more determined to see the PLO rebels establish a stronghold in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

Mr Arafat's representatives at the UN have been sending frantic letters to the Security Council, enjoining it to act, and the Soviet Union may find itself in a position of having to choose between Mr Arafat and Syria in the Council.

Tehran denies reports of Khomeini illness

Tehran (Reuters, AFP) - The Speaker of Iran's Parliament, Hajatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, yesterday denied Western reports that Ayatollah Khomeini is ill.

Hajatollah Rafsanjani told worshippers at prayers in Tehran that the Western radio had "magnified the question of the Imam's illness as a non-existent illness".

He referred to the Ayatollah as being about 86 years old and said: "Considering the old age and weakness coming with it, the Imam is one of the most hard-working old persons in the world."

In recent months Ayatollah Khomeini has considerably reduced his public engagements.

On the war with Iraq, Hajatollah Rafsanjani, a member of the Supreme Defence Council, said Iran had the upper hand. It was ready to attack at every point but would not be rushed into a premature operation.

Unesco to get £2m extra from Moscow

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Soviet Union has announced that it will donate an extra \$2.5 million (about £2 million) to this year's United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization budget to help bridge the huge gap in Unesco's funds caused by the withdrawal of the United States, formerly its main contributor.

France announced earlier this week that it would provide an extra \$2 million towards the \$28 million which need to be found this year if further cuts in programmes and administrative costs are to be avoided. The other Western nations are firmly against any increase.

Mexico and India will donate the \$500,000 which should have received to make up for an over-evaluation of their contributions last year. Venezuela has said it will contribute the \$330,000 owing to it, and Pakistan the \$300,000 which it would have received.

Call for red-light charter

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam

A three-day international protest will be held in Amsterdam next night with a time-racing, market hall in a leading Amsterdam hotel.

Earlier the congress, attended by about 250 male and female prostitutes and their supporters from West Europe and North America, adopted a "world charter for prostitutes' rights" and set up an international committee for those rights.

The main aim of the charter is to obtain recognition that prostitution is a profession like any other, and that taxation and social benefits should apply as in other trades.

The committee, which intends to lobby the United Nations, the European Parliament and national governments, will be based in The Netherlands and seek exempt foundation status.

Now you get an even bigger return with a National Savings Investment Account.

From 8th February the new rate is 12¼% p.a., an increase of 1%.

Competitive Interest.

Interest on the Investment Account is calculated on a daily basis and credited in full. It is taxable if you pay tax.

The rate may change from time to time, so we can keep it competitive.

Save-by-Post.

It is simple to use our Investment Account Save-by-Post service whether you are opening a new account or making a deposit to an existing account.

Save-by-Post is all about ease and convenience: yours.

All you have to do to open a new account is fill in the coupon and send it to us with your initial deposit.

Invest up to £50,000.

You can invest from as little as £1 to a maximum balance of £50,000. We'll send you your Investment Account book and



You're better off with an Investment Account

a pre-paid envelope for your next deposit.

From then on you can manage your investment from the comfort of your armchair.

We never close for Save-by-Post investors. You can send off your deposit any time or any day. Or you can, if you prefer, pay it in at the Post Office.

Easy to Deposit.

You will find an Investment Account very easy to manage. Once you have opened your account, deposits from £1 upwards can be made by post with the envelope we supply. You don't even need a stamp. And there are no forms to fill in either. You just put the cheque in your bank book and send it off.

Alternatively, deposits can be made at any one of 20,000 post offices.

Easy to withdraw.

The Investment Account offers the benefit of both high interest and easy access. You need only give one month's notice of withdrawal.

WHAT TO DO

NEW ACCOUNTS. You can open an account and make deposits at the Post Office.

Or you can complete the coupon and send it with your cheque (not cash) to: National Savings Bank, Glasgow G58 1SB.

EXISTING ACCOUNTS. Just send your cheque together with your bank book. No coupon or covering letter is required. Your book will be returned to the address in the book, so be sure it's your current address and make a note of the account number.

Cheques can be your own, made payable to National Savings, or cheques made out to you by somebody else (no need to endorse).

FILL IN FOR NEW ACCOUNTS ONLY

To: National Savings Bank, Glasgow G58 1SB

I wish to open an Investment Account.

SURNAME _____

FORENAMES _____

DATE OF BIRTH: DATE _____ MONTH _____ YEAR _____

(Essential for children under 7 years.)

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT DEPOSITED: POUNDS _____ PENCE _____

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

USUAL SIGNATURE _____

(If child under 7, signature of person opening account. Withdrawals are not normally allowed until child is aged 7.)

Please give number(s) of any other NSB Investment Account(s): _____

Rate of interest correct at time of going to press

Bulgarians accused of killings to make Turks change names

From Roger Boyes, Sofia

Travellers returning from the rugged northern mountain district of Bulgaria yesterday gave a dramatic, detailed picture of the government campaign to change, at bayonet point, the names of ethnic Turks.

Several scores of Turks have been killed, some Muslim women raped or humiliated, and internal security troops backed by tanks have encircled villages in the operation to assimilate Bulgaria's biggest national minority, the sources said.

The main operational areas in the north-east and south-east of Bulgaria have been closed to diplomats and journalists since the name-changing action began in December. But for the first time some travellers have broken through the security cordon and their return told *The Times* of the fierce clashes between the Bulgarian forces and the Turks.

News of the intensified violence has also reached Ankara, which has withdrawn its ambassador. Mr Omer Engin Lutem, for "consultations".

The embassy in Sofia is surrounded by armed militiamen, who bar entry to Bulgarian Turks. The ambassador left yesterday in an armoured car.

According to the travellers, the village of Yabbonovo, in the Balkan mountain range, was sealed off entirely on January 12, a day after the 1,800 inhabitants had been told that their names would be changed from Islamic to Bulgarian ones.

Security forces were seen in

the streets with walkie-talkies and at 3am tanks started to rumble round the periphery of the village, striking fear into the population. At daylight the militia entered and moved from house to house.

"Each head of the household received a form with a blank space for him, his wife and five children," the travellers said. "If they hesitated, the militia simply pointed a gun at the head of the man and said 'sign'. Some were shot."

The Bulgarian Government denies it is using violence. Mr Lyubomir Shopov, head of the Foreign Ministry's Balkan Affairs Department, told *The Times* yesterday: "There is no substance to the press claims that we are forcing anyone to change his name. Everyone has a legal right under Bulgarian law to change their names."

The territory had not been sealed off. "It was just that heavy snowfalls have blocked the road."

However, the travellers said the violence experienced in Yabbonovo had been repeated throughout the Turkish region, including neighbouring villages and townships such as Vranil, Lon and Valichka. In the regional capital of Razgrad, in the north-east, merchants in the bazaars are reporting that local fatalities are between 200 and 300.

This information was supplied to them by Turkish farmers who were allowed to leave their besieged village to deliver produce. There is no way of confirming such reports, but they are in line with estimates by several Western

embassies. The Turkish press had reported some 800 fatalities in the recent clashes, but the travellers tend to discount this as exaggeration.

However, the methods used by the Bulgarian militia seem to be calculated to spark off violence from the Islamic farmers, most of whom are hunters, with axes and shotguns readily to hand in their houses. Witnesses have said the police sometime strip teenage daughters of the farmers, in an effort to humiliate the family and persuade them to sign away their Turkish names.

Some Turks built barricades when they heard that the militia, backed by internal security troops, were approaching to carry out the name-changing operation.

The point of the campaign seems to be to create a new uniform Bulgarian identity and deny the existence of any substantial minority. The Bulgarian Turks have to change their names from, for example, Ismail to Ivan and from Mehmet to Mikhail. Family names are chosen from a list.

The Government claims that it is being seriously misrepresented in the Turkish and Western press and complained to this effect to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, who was in Sofia earlier this week. He replied that if there were any distortions in the reports, which are believed by all the main Western embassies, the Bulgarian Government should allow objective observers into the sealed areas.

Walesa to face the prosecutor in Gdansk

Warsaw (Reuters) - Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, said yesterday he had been summoned for questioning by prosecutors, as three senior activists of the banned trade union were charged with planning a national strike.

Mr Walesa reported through an aide that the prosecutor in Gdansk wanted to see him today "as a suspect" on the same charges faced by Mr Adam Michnik, Mr Bogdan Lis and Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk.

The three were detained on Wednesday at a Solidarity meeting in a flat near Mr Walesa's home. Mr Walesa, who was present, was allowed to go free.

The official PAP news agency said Mr Michnik, Mr Lis and Mr Frasyniuk, who were all freed from jail last year under a political amnesty, were accused of fomenting unrest and illegal protests. The charges carry maximum prison sentences of three years, the Justice Ministry said.

They refer to the union's call for a 15-minute strike across Poland on February 28 against food price increases, to be introduced in March, and longer working hours.

The strike proposal, which came from Solidarity's underground Provisional Coordinating Commission (TKK), is the union's first call for industrial action for 18 months.

PAP made no mention of four other activists. Mr Janusz Palubicki, Mr Mariusz Wilk, Mr Jacek Merkel and Mr Stanislaw Hezlik, also picked up in the raid.

The authorities have 48 hours in which to lay charges against detained suspects or to release them. This period has now elapsed.

Mr Michnik and Mr Lis are already under investigation for attending the TKK meeting last month which decided on the strike.

The Justice Ministry said their amnesties could be revoked if they were convicted on the present charges, but only after all appeals procedures had been exhausted.

Mr Frasyniuk served a two-month sentence last autumn for allegedly disturbing public order, but it was passed by a misdemeanours court rather than a criminal court.

The three men are among Poland's foremost opposition activists.

BISHOPS' ATTACK: Poland's Roman Catholic bishops yesterday accused the authorities of waging an "unprecedented" propaganda campaign against the church (AP reports).

The bishops said that the trial of four secret police officers for the kidnap and murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko had harmed church-state relations and failed to "strengthen social peace" in Poland.

The long agony of a chess marathon



Indignant challenger: Kasparov at yesterday's news conference, when the match was called off.

Frustrated Kasparov shows the calibre of a champion

By Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent

The decision by Mr Florencio Campomanes, the Filipino president of the International Chess Federation (Fide), to end the match between Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov is unprecedented in the history of world championship matches.

Karpov has successfully defended his title by grace of the presidential decision to cut the Gordian knot in favour of the world champion, and thereby bring to a close the longest and most disappointing match in the history of the world championship.

To do him justice, Mr Campomanes seems to have opted for the only practical way of solving the problem with which he was confronted.

The whole chess world will sympathize with the young challenger's indignation at being deprived of victory after his fine work in the match. He will have the satisfaction, albeit a meagre one, of having shown that, although he is not yet world champion, he is fully capable of world championship mettle.

Disappointing though the final result may be to Kasparov, at one time it looked as though it was going to be even grimmer: after 20 games Karpov was leading by 5-0.

The way Kasparov started the match, which began on September 10, was extremely puzzling to all those of us who had hoped for a series of sparkling moves from the hand of one who appeared to be a young genius and who had already established himself in a leading position in the tournament world in quite a number of brilliant and massive victories.

Early on, however, it was apparent that his preparations for this match had been faulty. It was almost as though he took his task too lightly and thought he was going to achieve an easy victory.

He was, in fact, doomed to suffer one great handicap from the start of the match, when it became clear that the world champion had secured for himself the best analysis and the leading opening theorists in the Soviet Union to assist him in his opening preparations for the match and also to aid him in adjournment analysis. Karpov, who got the best of the grandmasters in his team, left

WINNING GAMES		
game	winner	
Sept 17	3	Karpov
Sept 27	6	Karpov
Sept 29	7	Karpov
Oct 6	9	Karpov
Nov 24	27	Karpov
Dec 13	32	Karpov
Jan 30	47	Karpov
Feb 9	48	Karpov
* playing White		

only the second-raters to the challenger.

This perhaps might explain why, when the match started, Kasparov allowed the games to proceed on opening lines that were more familiar to the world champion than to him.

It does not, however, explain the really feeble nature of Kasparov's early play. We saw none of the brilliant attacks for which he is world famous.

The close resemblance between his play and that of the young Alekhine had led most of us to believe that the young challenger might well triumph over his more experienced adversary, but instead of beautiful executed combinative victories à la Alekhine, all we saw was a feeble and poorly-planned attack.

Still worse were the missed opportunities missed in a style totally uncharacteristic of his play hitherto.

An example was game six, in which he missed no fewer than three wins and eventually lost.



Pensive champion: Karpov (right) listens impassively as Mr Florencio Campomanes, the Fide president, addresses the meeting.

Finns reassure visitors over polio outbreak

From Alan McGregor Geneva

Finland does not foresee any need for travel restrictions or compulsory vaccination of visitors because of its polio outbreak, caused by a mutant virus.

Dr Tapani Hovi of the Finnish public health department, said yesterday that there was no evidence that the new strain discovered in the polio 3 virus was resistant to the vaccine being used in a special nationwide immunization campaign.

He was at a conference called at the World Health Organization headquarters, attended by experts from the United States, Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Soviet proposal on troop cuts raises US hopes

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States yesterday expressed the hope that the latest Soviet proposal at the Vienna talks on troop reductions in Europe reflected a willingness to re-establish serious dialogue, which had been absent since Nato modified its position in April, 1984.

The Soviet Union on Thursday sought to break the deadlock in the 11-year-old negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in Central Europe. It proposed that in the first phase the US should withdraw 13,000 troops, while the Soviet Union would reduce its forces by 20,000 within a year of an agreement being reached.

The Russian move comes shortly before the two super-

powers begin their talks in Geneva on nuclear missiles and space arms control on March 12 and is aimed at building trust and a better climate in East-West relations.

Both Nato and Warsaw Pact countries have proposed larger withdrawals from Central Europe in later stages. Under the latest Soviet proposal the Warsaw Pact forces would be cut-back to 900,000 men on each side, including 700,000 infantry. Half the Warsaw Pact reduction would consist of Soviet troops.

The Nato countries had proposed earlier that in the first stage the US withdraw 13,000 soldiers and the Soviet Union take out 30,000.

MEPs block golden handshakes

Brussels - The European Parliament has blocked immediate payment of £1.77 million in golden handshakes to the 11 European commissioners who retired at the start of this year (Ian Murray writes).

Member states had asked Parliament to release the money, even though the Community has no budget yet for this year, to honour the pay-off agreement.

But Parliament, by 270 votes with none against, only agreed to release a total of £321,000.

The Budget Commissioner, Mr Hans-Joachim Lauth, said this would be enough to meet commitments until June. There would then have to be a new request for further funding if the Community still had no budget.

Official in Ankara held on spy charge

Ankara (Reuters) - Mr Hayat Ihan, press spokesman for Turkey's Interior Ministry, has been arrested on suspicion of spying for Libya, his wife told Reuters.

His arrest comes after the detention on spying charges of a translator at the Libyan Embassy and a Turkish journalist. They face up to 15 years in jail if convicted of spying.

Mafia hideaway discovered

Palermo (AP) - Heavily-armed police, scouring the countryside for Mafia suspects, discovered an underground hideaway believed to have been used by top crime chiefs.

The elaborate system of tunnels and rooms was found beneath a country villa outside Palermo, that belonged to Michele Greco, nicknamed "The Pope", and his cousin Salvatore, a newspaper report said.

Sri Lanka frees journalists

Colombo (Reuters) - The Sri Lankan Government has ordered the release of three journalists, two of them Britons, detained last Friday near a military camp in the troubled northern town of Jaffna.

The Britons, Nicholas Colebridge and Michael Nicholas, and a German journalist, Peter Evelyn-Jouvenal, had obtained accreditation. State radio said 38 separatist guerrillas had been killed in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

Interpol change

Paris (Reuters) - A French police inspector, M. André Bossard, has resigned as secretary-general of Interpol which is moving its headquarters to Lyons. Commander Raymond Kendall, a former Scotland Yard detective, will be acting head until October.

Blaze rift

Manila (AP) - An impatient police colonel yesterday took charge of firefighters at the Regent of Manila hotel after all six fire engines operating ran out of fuel and could not spray water for hours. The death toll is put at 24.

Orphans die

Dhaka (AP) - Twenty orphans attending a feast in northern Bangladesh to mark a religious ceremony on the 40th day after the death of one of their teachers have died from food poisoning. Another 50 are ill.

Mountain flight

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - A French Air Force captain, has leapt off Aconcagua, at 23,035 ft South America's tallest mountain, in a paraglider. His unpowered flight lasted 25 minutes. The height of the staging area was not given.

Lange backed

Wellington (Reuters) - Nearly 2,000 anti-nuclear protesters massed outside Parliament yesterday to support the Labour Government's ban on nuclear warships visiting New Zealand's ports.

Tanker hit

Bahrain (Reuters) - A crewman was killed and three others injured in an Iraqi air attack on the Iranian-registered tanker Neptunia in the Gulf, the Iranian news agency Irna said yesterday.

Unwelcome face

Seoul (AFP) - South Korean authorities have banned the latest issue of *Newsweek* magazine because it has a photograph of the dissident leader, Mr Kim Dae-jung, on its cover, sources said here.

Curfew cut

Noumea (Reuters) - France's special envoy in New Caledonia, M. Edgar Pisani, has cut by two hours an overnight curfew imposed on the island after violence.

Fire kills 3

Grez-Boiceau, Belgium (AP) - Three elderly women died when fire swept through part of a retirement home here. The victims ranged in age from 83 to 90.

Power saving

Khartoum (AFP) - Sudan's President Nimeiry has ordered markets and shopping centres to close each evening to save electricity.

Death plunge

Rome AP - An unidentified woman aged between 35 and 40 fell to her death from the roof of St Peter's Basilica yesterday in what Vatican officials said was an apparent suicide.

Hookah havoc

(Reuters) - A farmer trying to fight his hookah set fire to a heap of dried straw at a village 95 miles north-west of here and started a blaze in which two people were killed, 24 injured and 180 houses destroyed. The farmer was unhurt.

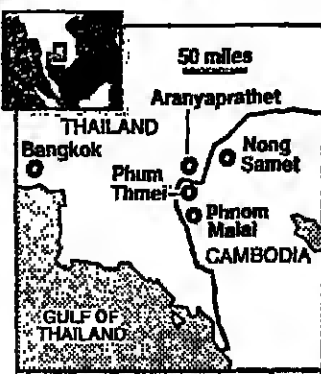
Vietnamese seize Khmer HQ to complete Thai border victory

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Vietnamese and Cambodian government forces seized the Khmer Rouge headquarters at Phnom Thmei east of the Thai border yesterday. Thai officers said that, after reaching the village, troops set fire to houses and other buildings.

Although Phnom Thmei has been the administrative and communications headquarters of the Khmer Rouge for several years, the guerrillas did not put up a struggle, but laid mines on approaches before withdrawing.

Phnom Thmei has become known as the capital of "Free Cambodia". Last weekend, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the resistance, visited the village and received credentials from four foreign ambassadors. About 17,000 civilians lived there until they fled into Thailand.



The Khmer Rouge, whose military commander is Pol Pot, the former ruler of Cambodia, have abandoned most of their bases in western Cambodia.

There were believed to be about 10,000 Khmer in the Phnom Thmei region. They have broken up into small units, according to Thai officers, and

are preparing to strike at the Vietnamese Army's long supply lines.

The battle near the border appears to be over. General Arthit Kamland-El, the Thai supreme military commander, said yesterday: "The loss of territory does not mean defeat in guerrilla warfare".

Diplomats in Bangkok, however, believe the setbacks of the past three months reduce the credibility of the resistance as an alternative to the Vietnamese-backed administration in Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk expressed his concern about the situation. He said loss of territory and the fact that all civilians under the control of the resistance had been forced into Thailand might be damaging when the United Nations decides later this year whether to continue recognizing the resistance as the legitimate government.

BISHOPS' ATTACK: Poland's Roman Catholic bishops yesterday accused the authorities of waging an "unprecedented" propaganda campaign against the church (AP reports).

The bishops said that the trial of four secret police officers for the kidnap and murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko had harmed church-state relations and failed to "strengthen social peace" in Poland.

Lloyds High Interest Cheque Account.

Best access, more interest.

Lloyds Bank If you're looking for an outstanding combination of access to your investment and high-interest, you'd have to go a long way to find anything as good as our new High Interest Cheque Account.

To start earning the highly attractive 13.00% interest, invest a minimum of £2,500.

Then you're free to pay in or withdraw any amount you choose (if the amount in your account falls below £2,500, it will continue to earn good interest at the lower rate of 10.5%).

As for the instant access, with your special Cashpoint card you can take out up to £300 a day - from any of 1600 machines across the country. That's more than any other single bank. Over 800 of these give you cash seven days a week and you'll be able to enter our 120 special lobbybanks to pay in or take money out. This gives you access to your investment on a scale you'll find nowhere else.

And, of course there is also your High Interest cheque book with which you can pay bills or simply withdraw money in the normal way, with no restrictions - unlike most accounts of this type.

You can make three withdrawals each

quarter free of charge. Then they cost you 50p each. Interest is paid quarterly into your account. Statements are issued quarterly to help you keep track of your account.

If you wish to open an account (groups, clubs, associations or charities are also eligible), why not call into one of our 2,300 branches?

Alternatively, complete the coupon and send it with your cheque to start earning that high rate on your investment.

Post to: High Interest Dept., Lloyds Bank Plc, 71, Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Please open a High Interest Cheque Account in my/our joint name(s) _____ Lloyds branch with the enclosed cheque for £ _____ payable to Lloyds Bank Plc. I am/am not a customer of Lloyds Bank.

Please issue me/us with a Cashpoint card(s) for use on my/our High Interest Cheque Account and provide daily withdrawal facilities of £100/£300. ☐ Where applicable

Signature(s) _____

Title of account for cheque book _____

Date _____ A copy of the terms and conditions will be sent to you shortly. (Additional formalities may also need to be completed if the account is a joint account or to be opened by a club or society etc.)

Full name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

A thoroughbred amongst banks

Concert

Paul Griffiths

Joan Chissell

A close shave: Figaro (Russell Smythe) and Doctor Bartolo (Donald Adams).

The new period and the new excess also have their benefits within the central argument. In particular Berta is a magnificently awful creature as she is bravely sung and acted by Ludmilla Andrew: a slattern of a maid rarely seen without a bottle and singing a good bit of

Meanwhile, upstairs at Oval House, another inseparable twosome are memorialized in *The Double Boys*, a dramatized biography of the original Siamese twins Chang and Eng. These gentle giants were taken to America to be exhibited as freaks in the 1820s. Marrying the daughters of a rich Quaker, they became gentleman farmers and slave owners and fathered 21 children between them. A medical legal and even spiritual problem posed by their condition resulted in a great fascination, but the task of doing it justice proves too much for David Annan and Judith Owen who share 28 roles in a breathlessly expositional script

Richard Williams

Celia Brayfield

David Wade

WARNER WEST END
NOW SHOWING
CLASSIC
ODEON
 HAYMARKET CHelsea HIGH ST. KENSINGTON
 SWISS COTTAGE



SPORTING DIARY

Gilt-edged blues

When is a Blue not a Blue? The fluctuating status of many sports in Oxford-Cambridge competition, and the fraudulent claims of many pseudo-sportsmen, have made this a problematical question. But now the Oxford women's Blues Committee has decided to wipe out the grey area - by awarding certificates to Blues and half-Blues. The procedure would have scuppered the pretensions of Roger Hollis, the alleged M15 mole, who claimed an Oxford golfing Blue, and would have guaranteed an early exposure of a certain American journalist who recently lost credibility when it was discovered that his claim to a Cambridge rowing Blue was not based on fact.

It would also put an end to disbelief about the award of a half-Blue for ballroom dancing. Men used to get no recognition for their efforts in this strenuous area of competition, but the men's Blues committee finally relented a couple of years ago and permitted dancers a half-Blue. Rugby League players can also be awarded a half-Blue: they say they should be able to collect the full award, but some Rugby Union chaps think they are not entitled even to that. Observers see little chance of the men following the women's lead in the matter of awarding certificates. Let chaos and falsehood reign; the true blue knows the truth in his heart.

● The Oxford and Cambridge boat race crews will row the 28 miles from Cambridge to Ely and back on March 9, hoping to raise through commercial and individual sponsorship £1,000 a mile for Ethiopian famine relief.

Local derby

Telford, the non-league Shropshire side who play first division Everton in the fifth round of the FA Cup today, did not spend the night in a Liverpool hotel. There was no point. "All they have to do to get to the Everton ground is fall out of bed," said their manager, Stan Storton. Six of his first team players live on Merseyside; so does his assistant manager, and so does Storton. One Telford player, Ken McKenna, even has a tattooed on his arm the words "Everton forever".

Gallantry lives

Vitas Gerulaitis and Bobby Riggs have challenged Martina Navratilova and Pam Schreiber to play a tennis match for half a million dollars. Riggs, aged 67, beaten in 1973 by Billie Jean King, said, pleasantly: "I think we will kill them and put women's tennis back 20 years."

Ostpolitik

When West German soldier Markus Wasmaier won the world giant slalom championship at Bormio in Italy, the organizers of the event did him proud. They played the East German national anthem at the presentation ceremony. The music was snatched off in mid-air and the Bormio town band enterprisingly struck up the right anthem. An official explained: "We have a tape with the East German anthem on one side and the West German on the other."

Lifetime event

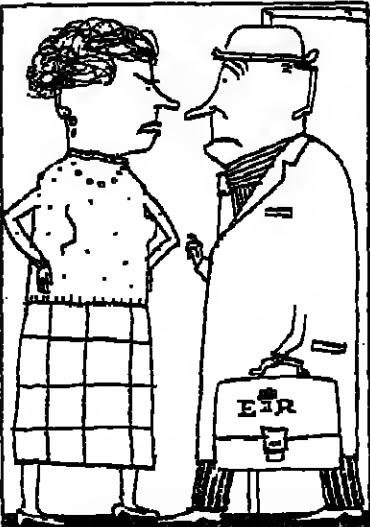
The tragic news is that Virginia Holgate, the three-day eventer, is to marry in October. Miss Holgate, possibly the only woman ever to have a pair of Union Jack shorts interviewed on television by Raymond Brookes-Ward, will marry Hamish Leng, an investment consultant.

● National Hunt trainer Jenny Pitman has been complaining that her horses are being asked to carry too much weight. A firm believer in leading from the front, she has lost a stone herself by following jockey Charlie Mann's herbal diet.

Stripping up

More about oatmeal anthers: Carl Lewis, the quadruple gold-medall sprinter, made a spirited bid to reclaim the hearts and minds of the American public when the recording of the Star Spangled Banner failed at an indoor meeting last week. Lewis, who was booed by a crowd of fourmighth age, broke the silence by starting the anthem himself. The crowd joined in, applauded wildly, and everybody got jolly American about it all. "I have taken a few singing lessons and I plan to take a few more", Lewis said afterwards. When he gave up athletics, he added, he hoped to become an actor.

BARRY FANTONI



"Typical of you never to come across any secret documents you feel compelled to leak."

"Ponting", said a civil servant in a department with an ethos and function far removed from the Ministry of Defence, "has been a great morale booster."

This man, of the same rank as Clive Ponting, went on: "It's not that anyone condones his action, in fact we tend to think he's been rather unprofessional. But there's an unmistakable sense round here of one in the eye for the Government, and people have gloated."

The sentiment is ugly. Once, perhaps still, the major offence against the civil servant's own code was to embarrass his minister. Now officials are revelling in it. Since Ponting's acquittal there has been a good deal of wild talk about a "crisis" of Civil Service morale: some say low morale was a precondition for the Ponting affair; others say morale will be further lowered by the Government's likely response, for example in trying to tighten confidentiality rules.

But is there such a crisis? "Morale is lower than I have ever known it in the past 20 years," said one official in the Department of Health and Social Security. The words "morale" is at an all-time low" figured prominently in the recent pay submission of the Association of Inspectors of Taxes. A refugee from the Department of the Environment speaks of it "seething with restlessness."

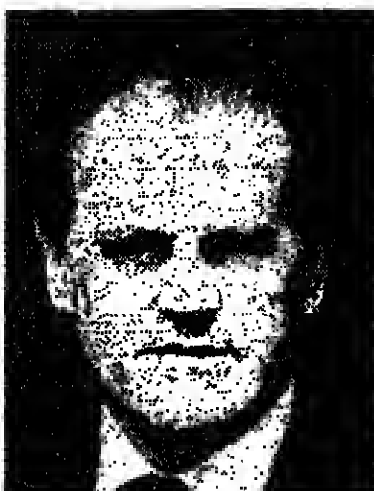
Even Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary and titular head of the Civil Service, this week conceded to a modicum of "worry" over the reasons for present trends in recruitment and retention of the ablest people.

Scratch a civil service union activist and a list of grievances spills out, headed by pay. Without doubt it is widely believed in Whitehall that the administrative class - all those civil servants who qualify for the rather misleading adjective of senior - considers itself hard done by, especially in comparison with the private sector, where salaries are said to be up to 30 per cent higher. It is not just money. The 14 per cent reduction in civil service numbers since 1979 has narrowed career prospects; some officials are now virtually immobile, and they don't like it.

There is certainly evidence that the ability of the Civil Service to take its usual share of Oxbridge graduates has declined. On the criteria of merit applied by the Civil Service Commission, it has been unable to fill all the vacancies for the administration trainee scheme, the inspectorate of taxes or other openings.

David Walker looks beyond the Old Bailey verdict to a morale on the wane

Ponting: a sign of Whitehall's growing malaise



Armstrong: worried



Plowden: warning

Yet "morale" seems to have as much to do with symbols and perceptions as financial fact. Among the trade union-minded the GCHQ affair still ripples - another indication, they say, of this government's attitude towards its servants. Anti-public service rhetoric from ministers (heard less often now) has stored up and festered.

In one department there is an impression that "honest advice" is no longer welcome; in another, a belief that only "true believers" need apply for the top jobs. "At the top of the office they have stopped questioning ministerial policies, stopped arguing the toss."

William Plowden, director general of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, speaks as a surrogate for the upper mandarin in these matters. In a recent lecture he mentioned "concern at the numerous anecdotes current about officials who believe that if they offer uncoventional advice to ministers they will be at best ignored, at worst penalized."

But this, it has to be said, is all

rather inchoate, like the talk of officials "no longer prepared to take work home or stay in their offices till the middle of the night". Such talk, says John Ward of the First Division Association, which represents the administrators, ignores the enduring loyalty - unaffected by Ponting - of civil servants and their cardinal notion of professionalism.

Morale, he says, is a word he will not use, but other Civil Service union negotiators are less scrupulous. In "low morale" merely a bargaining chip in the 1985 pay round, shaping up as another unedifying battle between the Treasury's 3 per cent and a claim for 15 per cent.

Generalizations about Civil Service morale must ignore the diversity of Whitehall, that congeries of government offices that takes in, for example, the Liverpool regional office of the Department of the Environment; there the adrenalin is running high at the prospect of direct rule of the city. In the Cabinet office and the efficiency unit there are officials whose enthusiasm for

the Government's managerial strategy is unalloyed.

"Sensitive management" may sound wet but it is the one ingredient often missing. Civil servants and outside observers broadly sympathetic to the cultural revolution being fomented within Whitehall by Mrs Thatcher's government (a revolution involving fewer numbers, better management and a politicization of Whitehall's upper reaches) agree that personnel management is not one of her strong points. Morale, therefore, is unlikely to interest her.

Some ministers evidently think "morale" is merely a cover for the reluctance of the public service to adapt to the sometimes painful circumstances of the 1980s that, like teachers, civil servants have to accept that the days of an increasing clientele and jobs are gone for ever.

Some ministers, however, have not worked through the paradox in which they simultaneously have to downgrade and slim the public sector of employment while ensuring that the machinery of state is well oiled and efficient. When he was still around Lord Rayner provided wise counsel.

One of his young men remembers Lord Rayner rejecting grand talk about morale but recalling that at Marks and Spencer he made sure he saw figures from the various stores of absenteeism and sickness. If they were up and there was not a flu epidemic, something was wrong.

The Civil Service is not Marks and Spencer and there is no central unit to collect such figures. But it would be an interesting exercise.

This is the testimony of a deputy secretary in one of the grander departments of state, a man not prone to exaggerate: "In this department there are areas of immense pressure because of workload and staff reductions. There's low morale. I'm aware of a higher degree of stress, illness and sick leave than in the past."

In his lecture William Plowden talked about problems of leadership within the Civil Service. Of the failure of Whitehall's senior managers, including ministers, to see that there are issues of spirit, drive, or morale. The newly formed Joint Management Unit run by the Cabinet Office and Treasury could usefully submit a paper to the PM on morale (to be published, please).

Clive Ponting has precipitated no crisis in some departments the verdict produced little reaction. But for some civil servants the Ponting affair will add to a sense of grievance which no effective manager, public or private, should tolerate for long.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Guilty until pronounced guilty

(Yesterday we left our hero bound hand and foot in the cellar of the National Union of Journalists as the water rose around him. Accused of conduct detrimental to the profession of journalism for expressing views unacceptable to the far-left faction in the union, I was arraigned before my own branch which, by most ingenious methods, managed to deny me the right to speak in my own defence. The case was then due to go to the union's National Executive Committee, which alone can decide whether a member should have his caputelles ripped off while the band plays the Dead March.)

I decided against legal action; instead, I got in touch with the union's general secretary, explained what had happened, and asked him to direct my branch to hold a fresh hearing at which I could be present. He assured me that if I put my case against what had happened in the form of an appeal against the branch's findings of a prima facie case to go before the national executive, he would see that a new hearing was indeed held.

He meant it, too, but when the matter was handed over to the official who directs the complaints procedure I was told that there is no method by which a complaint can be reheard. (Only afterwards did I discover that in an earlier, equally bogus, complaint case a rehearing had indeed been ordered.)

By this time, I thought I might as well go ahead with the appeal. Before the NEC committee which heard it I made clear that I would be arguing it only on procedural grounds - the irregularities and improprieties which had led to the denial of my right of defence in person - but that I made no admission on the substance of the complaint. I asked for, and received from the appeal committee, an assurance that my position, thus defined, would be included in their findings.

That undertaking the appeal committee (which of course rejected my appeal) broke; no mention of my statement appeared in the findings, which in addition included what I am obliged to describe without circumlocution as a plain lie (I can, of course, give chapter and verse for this serious charge). When I protested, I was told that the

committee flatly refused to amend its findings. The appeal against the findings of a prima facie case having failed, the next stage was a hearing before another NEC committee, which would decide whether an offence against the NUJ rule-book and/or The Thoughts of Chairman Mao had been committed; the committee would then report its findings to the NEC, which has to uphold or vary the committee's decision. Even if you have followed me so far, you will scarcely believe that, by further breaches of the rules, I was denied a hearing before the second NEC committee too.

The rules say that the NEC's decision must be made within six months of the branch findings; the six months would have run out on March 1. Imagine my surprise - or lack of it, rather - when the only dates given to me for the hearing were in January when, as I had told them, I would again be abroad. On inquiry, I discovered that they had arbitrarily decided (there is no authority anywhere in the rules) to change the six months time-limit to five months; the excuse was that no NEC meeting was scheduled for February, and they refused to call an extra one in the interests of justice because (or so they claimed) it might cost as much as £1,000.

This is an organization which has so far given to its striking members some £20,000 of the members' money - without asking the members' permission, of course - and is now planning to spend at least £50,000 to set up an "Ethics Council", the only practical purpose of which will be to inhibit still further the right of journalists to write as they please.

As a protest against this outrageous behaviour I declined the suggestion that I should send a written statement of my case; I was anyway confident that with or without it I would be found "guilty".

So I was. Messrs Keogh and Hanna of the NEC formed the committee (at the earlier hearing I had been told that although proper practice required a committee of three, it could be two if both parties agreed - I had not, of course, given any such agreement for the hearing at which I could not be present), and their findings were then ratified by the whole NEC.

The level at which the committee



of two worked may be gauged by one of two examples of the things they singled out for criticism. I had, for instance, written of Miss Barchini, who had started the whole thing with her absurd complaint against an article in *The Sun*, that she had claimed to be upset by the "glances" of a man "sitting opposite" in a train; no, they said, these were no glances - he had "looked her up and down". Nor, they added, was he sitting opposite her; he was standing up, near her.

On such grounds, which could be described as making a clear selection from the available evidence, of those aspects which suited the case being argued, while ignoring other evidence which diminished the argument, I was found "guilty" and "reprimanded". I have to say that someone so acute as Mr Hanna (of Mr Keogh I know nothing, except his political position) would, in other circumstances, have justifiably criticised a journalist who behaved like that; put simply, the "judgement" was a cheap, shoddy piece of work, revealing much about Keogh's and Hanna's attitude to tolerance and more about their methods.

Now what is all this nonsense really about? Why should grown men and women waste even five minutes, let alone many hours, on consideration of the ridiculous Miss Barchini and the even more ridiculous Michael Ann Mullen? To be "reprimanded" by people I despise is no great hardship; why have even

I dwell at such length on so trivial a matter? Because of what lies behind it, which is by no means trivial. What the far left in the NUJ is after is control, not just of the union but of what journalists in this country may write. A combination of closed shops for journalists and the intimidation of members by such proceedings as I have described, would bring the left faction their longed-for prize: censorship of views they disapprove of. For the closed shop would make journalists think twice and thrice about expressing such views if they thus risked expulsion and possible loss of their livelihoods; and the union's "Code of Conduct" gives rich opportunity for the censorship. (And we shall look in vain for any resistance to this process from the union's paper, *The Journalist*; its recent advocacy, in the election for its editor, was wholly in vain, for the left faction won, on a shamefully low poll - fewer than 5,000 out of more than 30,000.)

You may say that my fears, though not imaginary, are in practice most unlikely to be realized. You would be wrong; they have already been realized, in the case of Mr Frank Dunkley, a journalist of views too right-wing to be acceptable to the left. He was arraigned under the provisions of the Code of Conduct, found "guilty", fined £200, and told that if he did not pay he would be expelled from the union. He thereupon gave up the regular column he had been writing because, as he said, he could not go on facing "the worry of possible complaints committee hearings".

My readers may be assured (if that is the right word) that I am very unlikely to give up my column for that reason. But some journalists are more thin-skinned, or in a more precarious position, than I; seeing me judged "guilty" they may well start to avoid writing in a way that may bring such complaints against them, in which case the left will have advanced towards its object without needing to take any further action. And that, in the end, is why I have devoted so much space to a matter which, if those who direct the fortunes of the National Union of Journalists were mindful of their true responsibilities, would not have deserved a dozen lines.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1985

Bon giorno, Roma

Small worlds: an occasional series on unlikely magazines

half-yearly journal "on the life, language and culture of Roma" (the gypsies of Europe, the Americas, the USSR and so on), is one such obsessive. He discovered the wonderful world of Roma in the late 1960s when, as an Indian civil servant in Moscow, he escorted the late Mrs Gandhi to the celebrated Gypsy Theatre there.

He and his magazine *Roma* are now based in Chandigarh, where he pursues his contention that the Roma are in fact the lost tribe of India. In the most recent issue, which celebrates the second international Roma festival - held in Chandigarh, naturally - he receives some support from one Professor Piare Lal Sharma, MA, Advocate, Supreme Court, who notes that Mr Rishi's own Roma-Punjabi dictionary "clearly says that about 75

per cent of the Roma language is taken from the Punjabi language". Sharma obligingly translates a Punjabi/Roma song: "Oh, my husband's younger brother, go and get my goat grazed. I will not deprive you of your right." But there is more to it than that. "The love of world peace on both sides is the centripetal force which creates Roma's eternal affinity with India... The Roma are the blooming flowers in the garden of humanity. They are the sweetest people on earth."

That is the English style of the magazine, most of whose recent issues seem to have coincided with the Roma festivals or congresses that seem to take place with alarming frequency. The fourth World Roma Congress is due this autumn, in Paris or Padua.

The third world congress was held in West Germany in 1981 and concentrated on the Holocaust. About 500,000 Roma were murdered by the Nazis, and the survivors have complained ever since that posterity has overlooked their suffering.

On a lighter note many of the ads seem to slip into that uniquely Indian eloquence towards which some of the more pretentious articles merely strive. A motel, for example, which seems to have undergone a spot of refurbishment: "Skyrark spreads its wings! Porient for better days. The new-found love of Panipat is not the battles any more. Now it is banqueting and relaxing. The new wing now being added to the Skyrark, with eight more rooms, a large restaurant and a well-equipped banquet hall, will meet this need, just in time. Comfort of the morrow coming soon..."

Tony Samstag

Roma Publications, 3290/15-D, Chandigarh - 160015, India.

Paul Valley

Fear, Ethiopia's new disease

Addis Ababa

To watch a man or woman dying of cholera is an awful and haunting experience. When the patient is attached to an intravenous drip as much as 30 litres of rehydrating fluid can spew in a single day through a body gripped by the deadly cholera vibrium. Once they have worked with the contagion, doctors say diagnosis is instinctive but unmistakable: they talk of cholera eyes and a cholera stench, which once smelt is never forgotten.

In a people wracked, as are the starving Ethiopians by shigellosis, ankylosing dysentery and all manner of diarrhoeal killers which are best treated by swift rehydrative techniques, it may seem academic to want to pin a specific diagnosis on such a plague. Informed members of staff in several UN agencies are full of examples of governments in many parts of the world which have suppressed the news of cholera epidemics. This is a health organization is caused by fear that reports of such a notifiable disease would jeopardize exports, and lead to a virtual quarantine of their nation. There are even hints of complicity by local WHO officials in such cover-ups.

Where attempts to cover news of cholera go hand in hand with effective moves to combat the outbreak there is, perhaps, some defence in adopting such a position. But too often fear of admitting the true nature of the problem is transformed into fear of taking action against the disease, lest action be interpreted as a form of acknowledgement.

In a police state like Ethiopia, fear is one of the threads which is woven throughout the entire social fabric. The people fear the officials, the officials fear the security police and the security police fear the politburo. Even within the cabinet there is reported to be a constant circling of the wary. Comrade Colonel Mengistu has his hardline critics and it is commonly rumoured that the expulsion of two Russian advisers, one of them a very senior diplomat, last year was connected with a plot to oust Mengistu and replace him with the more pro-Soviet number three, Feseha Desta.

Over the past three months a new element has entered into this pyramid of suspicion. To mark the tenth anniversary of the revolution the Workers Party of Ethiopia was formed. The move came after considerable pressure from Moscow, for Mengistu himself was understood to be content with the "organization to build a Workers Party", which he had founded with the intention of forming the actual party halfway through the recently launched 10-year plan. The creation of the new party has dramatically affected the work of the famine relief programme.

Commentators in the West who maintain that the causes of the current famine lie chiefly in the ideology of socialist central planning can have no idea of the enormity of the natural problems which beset this country. From Addis Ababa it is possible to drive north for nine hours and see nothing but parched land, dried-out rivers and thousands of square miles of bleak and unyielding terrain. Logistical difficulties involved in importing and

distributing food sufficient to compensate for the vastness of the blow which nature has dealt are gargantuan; and yet relief workers and UN officials here are unflinching in their praise for the efficiency with which the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has squared up to the problem. As an effective organization it has few rivals in the entire continent, they feel. But the growing influence of the party is slowly altering all that.

Marxist cadres are now distributed throughout the country. Every office, organization and even classroom has its official party informer. They bring with them fear, and it is a paralyzing force. Where once RRC officials made immediate and on the whole pragmatic decisions, there is now the local party official to be considered. Often it seems that no decision is taken for fear of it being, in the party's eyes, the wrong one. Political priorities have come to supersede humanitarian ones. It was always so in the capital, perhaps, but now the attitude is spreading to the fields. Expatriate relief officials have noted a new diffidence among their Ethiopian field staff and the sense of dread has spread throughout many non-governmental organizations.

Nowhere is this more clear than in the attitude taken towards the disease which continues to spread through the refugee camps. The League of Red Cross Societies withdrew a team of German doctors from a camp at Assiya after they had dared to report to Red Cross headquarters in Geneva - despite the official disapproval of the government - that their patients were dying of cholera. Other relief agencies were afraid to commit themselves publicly for fear of jeopardizing their work among the starving, and even, in some cases, risking possible imprisonment for their Ethiopian staff. A government health officer in southern Shoa was refused the intravenous units and fluids he requested, "because there was no cholera in his district by his superiors in Addis Ababa who did not want to pass the unwelcome intelligence" on to their political masters.

In such cases the fear of disapproval, of chastisement or worse is more endemic than any physical disease could ever be. In relief circles in Addis Ababa today there is a curious kind of gratitude that the latest outbreak of the disease which the government dares not name has come in a World Vision feeding centre.

World Vision is an international charity with its roots in the rich evangelical communities of America and is probably the largest non-governmental organization working today in Ethiopia. This year it manages a budget of more than \$50 million for this one country with all the streamlined efficiency of a US multinational. It probably has the capital and the resources to conduct the kind of tests which could make an incontrovertible pronouncement on the exact nature of the epidemic.

Fear of that eventuality may force the Ethiopian government to release the results of the tests promised to the World Health Organization more than three weeks ago, still unpublished. That fear should be the motive would, in the circumstances, seem peculiarly apt.

Roy Strong

Making things as good as old

Every time the milk goes sour I rush into the garden and pour it over a phony urn or obelisk to encourage the growth of moss and lichen and thus give the object the patina of age. One of the more curious phenomena of our era is this cult of antiquating artefacts, of artificially inducing the hand of Time. It is not one we apply to everything; mighty industry is sustained to achieve exactly the opposite effect, for instance, in the case of the female face.

Reproduction furniture illustrates the point well. The really best sort has scratches and stains added to the surfaces and a mysterious person known as an artificial woodworm pelt the pieces with shot, thus leaving phony woodworm holes everywhere. Italy is the country where the manufacture of items conceived as old when new is a major industry. Any visitor to Florence is familiar with the acres of carved baroque gilt dulled down by a liberal application of a dirt mix.

Even pottery is wiped over to achieve the same effect. Recently I noticed a few delicate chips. These tricks must be as old as tourism itself for everyone from the north went south to bring back something old. These modern souvenirs are fineal descendants of the fake antique sculpture produced for those on the Grand Tour.

Instant antiquity by means of deliberate damage and dirt thus has a long history. In the case of gardens it stems from the cult of ruins and the Renaissance desire to make the garden a place in which to evoke dreams of the vanished glories of Greece and Rome. On to this, in England, we can add the romantic obsession with Gothic ruins, the hey real or phoney, in the eighteenth century. Tudor and Stuart gardens, in contrast, were monuments to glorious Technicolor as, each year, wooden posts bearing heraldic animals were gaudily painted and gilded. We have never returned to this way of looking at objects in a garden, instead pouring on the liquid manure and whatever else will induce age quickly.

On the whole we don't have the same criterion for our clothes. No one hastens a suit to bagginess and

fraying at the cuffs to score an effect. That is permissible to a degree only with country clothes, which should never look new, and above all in those for work in the garden. Valerie Finnis, Lady Scott, a great gardener, had a hoard of old garden clothes so stiff with mud they almost stood up on their own.

When it comes to interiors our attitudes enter a complex of contradictions which would fill a volume. There are summed up, however, by an exchange between my wife and the chateleine of a large country house. The latter had rushed across a room and surprisingly apologised for her curtains, to which the reply came: "You have waited fifty years for these to look so beautiful." They were of green velvet with borders and great tassels mottled by decades of fading by the sun which, according to one's eye and viewpoint, either made them a work of infinite subtlety or just tattered old fabric that ought to be replaced.

Whether a particular thing ought to appear old, or new, let alone whether it should be helped to look venerable, affects everything we look at. On the whole we never think about it but it is a subject which can cause deep divides and irrational conflicts. The pieces of buildings, for example, can be argued on scientific and historical grounds but the fundamental reaction depends entirely on two subjective rival ways of looking at the world around us. It is the areas of the battleground which are curious, for neither side would expect a bar or a piece of kitchen equipment to look old or grubby.

The cult of the hand of Time was born of the discovery of a sense of the historic past which, in terms of human history, is a recent development. No one until that happened would have made head or tail of Crabbe's lines: "For time, bath soft'n'd what was harsh when new, And the stains are all of sober hue." The consequences arising from this particular concept have bedevilled us ever since.

Sir Roy Strong is Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



PAO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

CHURCH v. STATE

To ask the House of Commons to consider the Appointment of Bishops Measure a second time in the knowledge that it was likely to be rejected a second time was a different proposition, the General Synod of the Church of England clearly thought, from offering the Measure a second time with a reasonable expectation that it would be passed. The first would precipitate confrontation; indeed Parliament itself would see it as inviting one. The second was the optimistic view, taken by the synod's business managers, that the House of Commons had had its fling, and would now be sensible.

The synod's clarity of thought was considerably aided by the advice of two Members of Parliament, who are also synod members, Mr John Gummer, and Mr Frank Field. They supplied the adrenalin which, prior to execution, is said to concentrate the mind wonderfully. They also supplied the inside knowledge of the temper of the House which had hitherto been lacking. Parliamentarians may call each other "silly billy" but would not take kindly to being called that by the established church, they warned. So if there had to be a conflict between synod and Parliament over some Measure relating to the church's internal life, let it be a measured one. And let the issue be worth the fuss.

There is a collision of conventions involved in this recent interruption of the hitherto co-operative relationship between

Synod and Commons. The convention, as the church wishes it to be, is that Parliament uses its residual power within narrow limits, vetoing a Measure only on grounds which fall within the competence and expertise of lay parliamentarians of diverse persuasions. The fate of the Appointment of Bishops Measure last July fell outside those margins, for most of the MPs who spoke had grievances not against the Measure itself but against the Church of England as they perceived it, objecting to its taste in liturgy and its taste in bishops. By convention as it has become established, the Measure should have gone through; therefore it should be offered a second time, for more conventional treatment.

The House of Commons, however, would expect a minister whose regulation had been defeated in the House to creep away and amend it, not to bring it back brazenly unaltered. The House of Commons expects occasionally that the House of Lords will defeat some scheme the Commons has blessed; and the convention is that only rarely, on major issues, will the House itself abides by this custom, the Church of England should be expected to do so too. That is the argument as it would be seen from the other side of the road from Church House, the corridors of temporal power to the Palace of Westminster.

The general synod's retreat from the battlefield on this occasion does not alter the fact that there is considerably more friction between the temporal and spiritual departments of the English constitution than for more than a generation. The synod was more inclined to postpone the conflict than to abandon it. Other Measures will have to cross that Westminster road, in due course, to some of which more churchly passion will be attached than in this case. The House of Commons would then have to think as clearly as the synod did on Thursday, in deciding whether to force the issue. It would raise the whole issue of disestablishment. Parliament would be wise to tackle that only if it really wants to do so, which it probably does not.

The church has been wise to avoid this particular quarrel, provided the lessons it has to teach are not ignored. The present constitutional relationship between church and state, between General Synod and House of Commons, has an interim character to it: it is evolving gradually towards something else. If that development is to be the church's liking, some of the ground ahead needs to be explored in theory first. In particular it needs to be asked whether establishment presupposes a Parliamentary veto over some of the church's internal affairs, or whether there is an alternative. The precedent of the established Church of Scotland shows that the idea is not inconceivable.

WILL THEY EVER TALK?

Mr MacGregor for the Coal Board and Mr Norman Willis for the TUC have worked out an agenda for new talks which is due "that on" say count the National Union of Mineworkers ought to be able to accept. Yet it is by no means clear that they will, and if they do not, there seems to be no other prospect than for this strike to collapse slowly by the return of individual miners to work instead of by agreement now.

If that is so, it will obviously be a serious disappointment. The cost to the nation of restoring Mr Scargill's strike has been heavy and damaging. It has probably added around £2.5 billion to the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and in 1984 its net adverse effect on the balance of payments was £2.75 billion. Even when all allowance has been made for the responsibility of US domestic policy and the overpriced dollar for the pressure on sterling, there can be no disputing that the coal strike has been a significant cause of the recent weakness of the pound. For all these reasons, it has damaged economic recovery, reducing economic growth from 3% per cent to 2% per cent in 1984, and has now contributed (through its effect on confidence) to the rise in interest rates at precisely the moment when the Government had hoped to see them stabilize at a lower level.

Not least, it has helped to put a check on Mr Nigel Lawson's hopes of a tax-cutting budget which was his chosen path towards a non-inflationary expansion of the economy. All in all, Mr Scargill has cost the nation dear, and much of the price is being paid by the ordinary trade unionists, in and

out of work, whose cause he purports to represent.

Yet this has been a strike that has had to be resisted, both to enable the management of the industry to manage it and to preserve the right of the elected government to determine the level of investment in the industry in the light of the national interest. The malign methods by which the strike has been prolonged, Mr Scargill's refusal of a ballot and picket-line intimidation, have made such resistance even more essential. To have surrendered would have had incalculable and dangerous consequences. High as the price of resistance has been, the nation has consistently shown its understanding that it had to be paid.

It is now clear that Mr Scargill cannot win, and since it appears to be only a matter of time before the strike peters out, the pressure to reach a settlement quickly has understandably grown intense. A settlement which would remove the drain on the British balance-of-payments and, even more importantly, the check on industrial confidence and recovery to this country is one of the signs for which the international money markets are waiting, and could diminish the pressure on sterling. But it is no less important for confidence that any settlement should be one which these same markets interpret positively, and not as some kind of hidden or partial victory for Scargillism.

This is the criterion against which any talks between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers will have to be judged, assuming they take place. The agenda worked out appears to accept the right of the board to manage and

to close uneconomic pits, but also acknowledges the NUM's right to contest closure proposals. In other words, it allows for consultation and also provides for collaboration in producing a new Plan for Coal. It is plainly a promising approach, but the government and the NCB have to walk something like a tightrope.

During the course of the strike, the NCB has already made too many concessions in respect of its right to make decisions about uneconomic coal production. On the other hand, the cardinal lesson to be learned from this unhappy twelve months is that in the end the decisive factor (once a government's will to resist an unjust strike is clearly understood) is public opinion. The government has beaten off Mr Scargill's attack with the support of the public which considers Mr Scargill's cause to be as unreasonable as his bullying methods are politically intolerable. The unwillingness of the rank-and-file of other unions to support him, together with the refusal of a large part of the NUM to do so, have been decisive. The Coal Board's flexibility reflects an understandable concern not to put its crucial public support at risk.

Whatever happens, however, one thing is surely clear. After the failure of this strike to achieve anything material for the striking miners, it is all but inconceivable that Mr Scargill could again bring the NUM out on the issue of uneconomic coal production. That simple fact justifies the price paid for this strike. It is also, perhaps, the decisive fact for the Coal Board to keep in mind in the negotiations, if they are resumed.

IN THE BOX

After a week in which so many cries of "No, I didn't" - "Yes, you did" have flown across the despatch-boxes, there is no excuse for any of us not to know the rules of truthfulness in the House of Commons. Members and Ministers do not tell lies. The fact that they do not is so plain and manifest a law of nature that there can be no occasion for other members and Ministers to call them liars (though they may assert that they don't believe them, which is not the same thing - implying weakness of faith on their own part rather than bad faith on their opponent's).

What is not so widely known is how this wonderful state of universal candour is achieved. In the case of ordinary members and Opposition spokesmen, native integrity and the fear of being found out are judged to be sufficient sanction. But for Government spokesmen the temptations are so much greater, and the consequences of falling short so much graver, that in times before the memory of the oldest Member a measure of stiffening was introduced, though in a characteristically roundabout and parliamentary fashion.

The secret is in the despatch boxes. They appear to be there

merely for purposes of cliché, so that the sketch-writers can speak of newly-appointed Ministers rising gingerly behind them like subalterns in the trenches going into action for the first time, or of old Ministers leaning on them for comfort and support. Voices from the other side deride Ministers for skulking behind their faces, or of wishing to creep inside them and hide. Edward Heath used to stretch his strong fingers on their polished tops as if seeking to draw chords from them. Not even Asquith ever took to keeping a snifter of consoling tincture there.

Nobody is ever seen to look inside, let alone reach in to brandish the latest despatches from Orreave, or Molesworth. Needless to say, they contain no despatches, and never have done. Once upon a time, boxes of piping hot despatches may have been rushed in to refresh speakers in mid-flow, but the pre-set ones are monumental, scarcely portable - and since Mr Heseltine's exploit with the Mace a few years ago, they have probably been nailed down. But they are more than just part of the furniture. The box on the Government side is significantly stuffed full of bibles, of all types and denominations, and cards

printed with the oath that every member renews at the beginning of each Parliament.

Every Minister who sets his hand to that box is thus in effect tacitly reneaving his oath at the very moment he speaks. This subliminal indication is generally thought of today as a purely practical arrangement, since it is at the box that Members queue to take the oath. But the symbolism is surely too potent to be accidental. As for the box on the Opposition side, that is said to contain a few spare oaths-cards too, for any Member who may lose his way between the Bar of the House and the table. Since there is no occasion for anybody ever to look inside, can it be assumed that there is also an accumulation of parliamentary oddments, popped inside and forgotten? They would comprise sweet papers, perhaps, or a yellowed draft for invective over delivered regarding the Corn Laws; Lady Astor's hat-pin; a button from Churchill's waistcoat (flown off at a heated moment of a nationalization debate, circa 1949); a 1952 MCC scorecard of Atlee's (marked "Rain stopped play"); and a dog-eared copy of the *Drapier's Letters*, left by Michael Foot, circa 1983.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A test of faith for bishops

From the Bishop of Norwich

Sir, At the moment there are six impending vacancies in the dioceses of Exeter, Bristol, Norwich (my own), Coventry, Chelmsford and Wakefield.

The full debate today (February 13) in the General Synod demonstrated much disquiet about alleged departure by some of us bishops from the holding of the fullness of the historic Christian faith, as the Church of England has received it.

Believing as I do in the Virgin Birth, and Christ's bodily resurrection, together with the other great doctrines set out in the creeds, I hope that churchmen of similar faith will pray most correctly that only men who believe confidently in the historic Christian faith will be chosen to be the new bishops of the Church of England.

It is not enough for the Archbishop of York to defend his action in consecrating the new Bishop of Durham by suggesting that some of the doctrines of the faith, like the Virgin Birth and the empty tomb, are less important than others.

One of the advantages of the new ordinal for the consecration of bishops in the *Alternative Service Book* is the devastating clarity with which the service confronts every new bishop-designate with the challenge to confess the fullness of the Catholic faith before the laying on of hands.

Each bishop, before he is himself ordained to be a guardian of the faith, must search deep into his conscience to be sure he already holds the doctrines of the faith, clearly, humbly and confidently.

At a time when just over one million people heard Dr Billy Graham, 97,000 made some open response, during his "Mission England" services last summer, and when many bishops are baptising and confirming these new Christians, the Church of England has a supreme opportunity to search for six new bishops, through the new consultative processes, who will be true pastors of the flock of Christ, glad adherents to the fullness of the historic faith, and humbly able to give concrete answers to the searching questions of the ordinal.

Only so will the present anxieties be abated, and the work and witness of the Church go steadily forward.

Yours etc,
MAURICE NORVICH,
House of Lords,
February 13.

Too fast for safety?

From Lord Evans of Cloughton

Sir, I was driving with my wife along the M6 and subsequently the M5 on the afternoon of Friday, February 8, in a southerly direction. The driving conditions were appalling and speed restriction warnings were operating at levels down to 30 miles an hour.

These I observed quite diligently. For my pains I was overtaken by at least two dozen huge articulated trucks travelling at about 60 to 70 mph, though visibility was down to a few yards.

One can hardly be surprised at accidents of the kind that occurred in the same area on Sunday last with nine people killed, when one experiences the totally selfish irresponsible and lethal driving habitually indulged in by drivers of these huge vehicles.

Yours faithfully,
EVANS OF CLOUGHTON,
House of Lords,
February 11.

Foiling the freeze

From Dr D. C. Horton

Sir, We all suffer from intense cold and particularly the elderly and bed ridden and I am writing to suggest a simple and cheap method (which, perhaps, is already used by some people) for warming beds to a comfortable temperature without having to revert to heating pads or electric blankets etc., which are costly and may present hazards in their use, particularly to the old and infirm.

If a sheet of aluminised material of the appropriate size is laid on the mattress of a bed with the aluminised side upwards and with a blanket on top of it (to absorb moisture), it will reflect a person's body heat upwards and that heat, when trapped by sheets, plus blanket or duvet, will be found to be a very adequate way of warming the body.

The only slight disadvantages are a possible rustling noise when turning and the need to air the bed every day.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. HORTON,
Dittons Corner,
Pevensey Road,
Polegate,
East Sussex,
February 12.

Round pounds

From Mr Robin A. Henderson

Sir, As a rim inscription for our new pound coins, Mr Toomey's suggestion (February 9) of *Facilis descensus Averna*, though pointed and poignant, sounds a trifle despairing.

I would suggest combining honest inquiry with hope in *Quid pro quo?*

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN A. HENDERSON,
33 Arlington Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex,
February 4.

What Scott achieved in Antarctica

From the Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute

Sir, John Wyver, in "Spectrum" (February 11) has drawn attention to the forthcoming Central TV production, *The Last Place on Earth*, which portrays the Antarctic expeditions of Scott and Amundsen, and to the controversy that has begun to surround it. I have had the privilege of a private viewing of the film on January 23 and would offer the following comments.

Mr Wyver, the new film and the book by Roland Huntford, *Scott and Amundsen* (Methuen, 1979), upon which the TV series is substantially based, all fail to record a most important difference between these two expeditions.

Scott, in returning to the Antarctic in 1910, had two explicit aims: to conduct extensive and thorough scientific research of the Antarctic and to achieve the South Pole, the latter goal exaggerated, of necessity, through the need to raise funds from the public.

Amundsen's expedition was, by contrast, a personal sporting venture designed solely to reach the Pole. There is nothing inherently unsound in such an objective but there is no comparison between the aims and scope of the two expeditions or in their long-term contribution to knowledge. It would be simple-minded to regard this chapter of polar endeavour as a pure race.

One third of Scott's expedition members who over-wintered were scientists. Their expertise and the programmes that they implemented included geology, marine and terrestrial biology, meteorology, glaciology, upper-atmosphere physics, terrestrial magnetism and gravity and oceanography.

There is little doubt as to the vigour, enthusiasm and skill with which this research was prosecuted or to the fundamental contribution that Scott's expedition made to an understanding of Antarctica. Indeed, through its 30 or more volumes of published results, the expedition has been acknowledged as the largest single contributor to the study of the continent prior to the 1950s.

Failings shown up by Ponting case

From Sir Harold Kent, QC

Sir, After your admirable leader on the Ponting acquittal (February 12), I am tempted to summarise the main proposal of the Franks committee, of which I was a member and to which I refer.

It proposed the repeal of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, the infamous catch-all section, and its replacement by a provision making it an offence to communicate "classified information relating to defence or internal security, or to foreign relations, or to currency or the reserves, the unauthorised disclosure of which would cause serious injury to the interests of the nation".

Obviously no one could have contemplated prosecuting Mr Ponting under such a provision (a) because the information was not classified, and (b) because its disclosure could not have caused serious injury to the nation. As a former Civil Servant I would be perfectly content that cases of this kind should be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure of the service.

After the Ponting case it looks as if the catch-all net of section 2 has rather a large hole in it. It might be a good moment to implement the report of the Franks committee.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD KENT,
Aldebury,
Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Alec Bristow

Sir, Before Mr Douglas Hogg expressed to the House of Commons his disgust at the outcome of the Ponting trial, he would have been wise to consider the words of his own father, the Lord Chancellor, who has stated on many occasions his belief that juries have a right, indeed a duty, to give what may be described as perverse verdicts to mark their disapproval of oppressive laws and/or overbearing judges.

Yours sincerely,
ALEC BRISTOW,
The Grange,
Thwaites,
Eye,
Suffolk,
February 13.

From Professor R. W. Pethybridge

Sir, In Russia during the 1930s judges declared that the govern-

An outstanding example is the innovative and seminal work on glaciology by Wright and Priestley. The geological discoveries of the expedition, much maligned by Huntford and given almost derisory treatment in the film, established the essential baseline for future investigations.

"The heroic efforts of the polar party were not in vain", commented A. C. Seward, FRS, the leading contemporary expert on fossil plants and Professor of Botany at Cambridge, in his examination of the specimens.

Du Toit, the perceptive South African geologist and early protagonist of continental drift, drew upon the results of the Scott expedition in demonstrating and reconstructing the common geological evolution of the southern continents.

Most of the scientists with Scott went on to have distinguished careers, and three were knighted. Priestley, for example, became Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University; Debenham, Professor of Geography at Cambridge and founder of the Scott Polar Research Institute; Simpson, Director-General of the Meteorological Office; Wright did vital wartime work on radar and sonar and was Chief Scientist to the Navy; Griffith Taylor became Professor of Geography at the University of Chicago.

These are the calibre of men, contributing profoundly throughout their lives to the study of Antarctica and to scholarship in general, that Scott judged as worthy of his expedition but which, alongside the research they conducted, Huntford's book and now a film series seek at best to ignore and at worst to discredit.

Today, institutes such as my own, which are concerned with the serious scientific investigation of Antarctica, readily recognise the substantial and pioneering legacy of the Scott expeditions.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. DREWRY, Director,
Scott Polar Research Institute,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road, Cambridge,
February 13.

mental interest was the same as the state interest. They were also directed by ministers to try defendants in trials by applying vague and "messy" (Lord Franks) clauses of the Soviet Constitution. They presided over verdicts.

Although the similarities with the Ponting case seem to be restricted to matters of administrative machinery, the political implications are very frightening. I am proud to live in a country where juries do not act as they did in the Soviet Union during the 1930s.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER PETHYBRIDGE,
Centre of Russian and East European Studies,
University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park,
Swansea,
February 12.

From Prebendary G. A. Lewis Lloyd
Sir, Many people are rejoicing at the acquittal of Mr Ponting, and see it as an endorsement of his action, but of course it is nothing of the sort.

The jury was asked was he guilty of a breach of the Official Secrets Act and decided he was not. They did not state (of course they were not asked) that what he did was right or moral or honourable.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. A. LEWIS LLOYD,
4 S. Mark's College,
Audley End,
Saffron Walden,
Essex,
February 13.

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, The Ponting affair is over - bar, of course, the shouting. It is interesting that nobody seems to have found fault with the receiver.

In the business world if an employee of a respectable competitor had offered me trade secrets, with which he had been entrusted in all confidentiality, in order to frustrate his employer's purposes, I like to think I should have shown him the door and informed his boss.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond,
Surrey,
February 13.

Causes of decline

From Mr David L. Alfred

Sir, The point about the "welfare state", as about any other social institution made by people, is to improve its ability to satisfy human needs, not worsen it.

In a nutshell, Sir John Hoskyns (February 12) recommends the privatization of two of the pillars of the welfare state, namely national insurance and the health service. He argues that Atlee's government got it all wrong in 1945, conveniently forgetting that the demand for "social reconstruction" came from nearly all sections of society and began soon after war was declared.

The British people gave their wholehearted support to the coalition government to fight against Nazi barbarism on condition that there would be no return to the pre-war Britain of high unemployment, the Poor Law and an inadequate health system, among other things. Responsibilities and rights.

Without going into the detail of Hoskyns's tendentious argument, jam-packed with mistakes of fact, on-sequiturs and ideological interference, I would pose three questions.

First, why doesn't he tell us what

the proportion of public spending to the GDP is in other European capitalist economies?

Second, why doesn't he explain why the percentage of the population dependent on supplementary benefit and supplementary pension (excluding all those who are entitled but don't claim) has increased so much since 1948?

Third, since when have these benefits been linked with rising wages and salaries rather than "fixed criteria of need", i.e., by taking Beveridge's original calculations and merely index-linking them to inflation?

In the end, it's all about Britain's relentless, relative economic decline over many decades. Divergent attention as some people may to the alleged extravagance of the "welfare state", recalcitrance of trade unions, debilitation of "creeping socialism", inefficiencies of publicly-owned industries, adversarial politics and all the other spectacles that haunt our society, the answer lies elsewhere; but that is another story.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. ALFRED,
15 Vale Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 16 1878

In 1821 the Malay peninsula was allotted to Britain under the Treaty of London. It comprised a number of states one of which was Perak. Following internal strife in the country, a Resident was appointed. In November 1875 he was murdered and British troops were sent from India to hunt down the culprits and to quell the rebellious natives.

THE PERAK EXPEDITION

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PENANG, JAN 11

On the 4th inst., however, General Ross proceeded from Kuala Kangsar with 150 troops, composed of Buffs, Third and Gloucestershire and 30 blue-jackets, the former marching along the banks of the river, and the latter in three boats, to a village called Kotta Lama, about two miles further north, to settle accounts with the head-man of the village who had fallen into our hands, appears to have had a share in the murder of poor Birch.

The village is, or rather was, a large one, and has for years been the refuge of all the worthless and bad characters who could escape justice and seek its protection. It lay on the east and west banks of the Perak River, almost due north from Kuala Kangsar. Altogether, therefore, it seemed to be necessary that the village and, perhaps, more especially its head-man, should be disarmed and otherwise deprived of the power of doing further mischief and this General Ross proceeded to effect.

Colonel Cox, who was in command with his small force, first, and without opposition, disarmed the portion of the village on the right bank, and then directed his attention to a similar work on the left bank, in passing through which not a soul was visible. Thinking it abandoned, a message to that effect was sent to General Ross, who, with his Staff - political, some unemployed officers, and a few of the Naval Brigade - landed and started on a march for the most part, through the village. The party consisted of the General and his Staff, 20 blue-jackets, under Captain Garforth, with Lieutenant Hare, R.E., and four Cooraks. On examining some of the houses a number of women were discovered, who immediately set up a loud howl, in response to which about 50 Malays, armed to the teeth, appeared from the jungle alongside and attacked the party, which besides being almost unarmed had the Naval Brigade through the village. Brigade-Major Hawkins, of the Bengal Staff Corps, fell speared through the heart, and the sailors, Marines and Cooraks each lost one of their men, while Dr. Townsend and two Cooraks were wounded, the former, fortunately, only very slightly. The attack was well planned and executed. Those of the enemy possessed of guns fired at the little party and retreated into the jungles, from which the spear-men then emerged and discharged their weapons. This was repeated three times before the blue-jackets, who were somewhat scattered, could close in and drive them off. The main column was so far off that the men in it did not even hear the firing, and were much astonished on hearing what had occurred in their absence. The loss on the Malay side is unknown, but eight dead were found, among them the head-man, whose punishment had been the main object of the expedition. The greater part of the village was burnt to the ground, but a few scattered houses appeared to have escaped detection, and the column then returned to Kuala Kangsar. It is presumed the women were left in the houses as a sort of blind, and there is no doubt they acted as a signal to the warriors who were concealed in the neighbouring jungle; but, to say the least of it, - injudiciously of entering into an enemy's stronghold, which we may consider Kotta Lama to have been, without even the precaution of being fully armed and prepared for any emergency, was scarcely to have been expected in the circumstances. Surely, we do not yet require to learn that nothing like direct European fighting is to be expected from the half-savage inhabitants of the Malay Peninsula.

Rajan Ismail is said to be 40 miles from Kuala Kangsar, but to look for him would be a thankless task, as he can move so much quicker than any body of our men. If we did elephants for our troops he could easily be run down, but on foot it would be impossible to do so, and a strict blockade and a large bribe are more likely to bring him into our hands than any other means. At Kuala Kangsar the blockade is being greatly and rapidly strengthened, as a fanatic attack after the great festival of the Buktas Buktis is not improbable. Fortunately, the spirits and watchfulness of our men are unflagging and a few nights ago their great success put to a most satisfactory test. An alarm was raised and in a few minutes and, with almost less noise than is occasioned by the turning out of a guard, every man in his place and any enemy attacking would have found hot work ready for him. The alarm was not altogether unfounded, for a number of men, apparently armed, were observed prowling about just beyond the outskirts of the light, was seen on one of the river banks being waved about in an unusual manner, evidently indicating that the enemy had established some kind of night signals.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. A. LEWIS LLOYD,
4 S. Mark's College,
Audley End,
Saffron Walden,
Essex,
February 13.

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, The Ponting affair is over - bar, of course, the shouting. It is interesting that nobody seems to have found fault with the receiver. In the business world if an employee of a respectable competitor had offered me trade secrets, with which he had been entrusted in all confidentiality, in order to frustrate his employer's purposes, I like to think I should have shown him the door and informed his boss. Yours faithfully, RICHARD DOBSON, 16 Marchmont Road, Richmond, Surrey, February 13.

Official soup

From Mr Paul M. Robinsons

Sir, Today being the almost unnoticed anniversary of the fall of Singapore (February 15, 1942), I would remind readers that toast and water would, for thousands of captive British soldiers, have been a welcome and nutritious alternative to the grass soup provided by the imperial Japanese army on the Burma-Siam railway.

Yours truly,
PAUL M. ROBINSONS,
Wansley House,
Ilkeshire,
Derbyshire,
February 13.

People and places

From Mr Christopher Fettes

Sir, Dr Bennett's letter in your columns today (February 5) reminds me of one I received from a Spaniard to whom I had sent a book, at a friend's request. His thanks were addressed to "Señor Printed Matter".

Yours faithfully,
C. FETTES,
Saint Columba's College,
Dublin,
February 5.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Brazilian debt crisis stirs back to life

"Debt Crisis Over" has been the fashionable headline in recent months; so it is not surprising that the differences which have now come to light between Brazil and the International Monetary Fund should cause the pendulum to swing in the other direction, reawakening nervousness in financial markets. Shares in Lloyds Bank (traditionally perceived as the most exposed to Latin American debt problems) fell 25p yesterday to 564p.

Financial markets have tended to respond to the debt problem by being in a state of alarm and over-optimism. Brazil has made remarkable strides in restoring some kind of external equilibrium, and this year's target of a \$12 billion visible trade surplus could well be surpassed. But it is no secret that it has consistently failed to meet the IMF's internal economic targets, and progress towards reducing the public sector deficit and curbing inflation has been disappointing.

In part, this reflects the problems of dealing with an economy geared to regular indexation of prices. Equally the IMF appears to have become exasperated with the Brazilian authorities for putting forward targets in their latest letter of intent to the IMF which they have no chance of achieving, given the pace of domestic monetary expansion in Brazil.

As a result the IMF is now saying that enough is enough. The commercial banks are putting final negotiations on their \$45.5 billion multi-year rescheduling deal with Brazil on ice, and it is now up to Brazil and the IMF to reach some kind of accommodation on economic targets.

This may take some time. Senhor Tancredo Neves, whose new civilian administration takes over in mid-March, has made no secret of his wish to see both IMF and commercial bank negotiations tied up before he assumes power.

Understandably, he does not want to be seen to be responsible for measures which are inevitably unpopular with voters. However, it is hard to see an early resolution of the present problem. Indeed it could be a while before the IMF negotiations and multi-year deal with the banks are tied up. However, that is not necessarily a cause for alarm. After all, if IMF targets were never breached, it would suggest they were set at levels which were all too easy to meet.

But Brazil is not the only big debtor the trouble with the IMF. Mexico is embroiled in a new dispute over 1985 economic targets which the government may be unable to meet.

An IMF team has been despatched to Mexico to begin another round of talks on a 1985 "adjustment" package, necessary to release \$500 million in credits from foreign banks which were negotiated last year. But officials said that the two sides were still far apart because of the government's inability to control inflation, growing budget deficits and the declining level of vital oil revenues.

Mexico failed to meet the 1984 targets in negotiated with the IMF for controlling inflation, which was 59 per cent instead of the promised 40 per cent; and its budget deficit was 6.9 per cent of gross national product instead of the 5.5 per cent agreed on in the debt negotiations.

Quarterly bill may ease tax flow

It seems likely that in his search for more cash in the next Budget Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is considering taxing building societies quarterly instead of once a year in arrears, as at present. He is being loudly encouraged by the clearing banks, which are already facing the prospect of paying composite rate tax like the societies and think the societies should therefore be taxed as frequently as banks.

would help to smooth the Government's tax flow. It represents a corresponding penalty to the societies which, not surprisingly, argue strongly against the move.

Their lobbying effort, however, will not be helped by the attitude of the Halifax, still easily the largest building society. Last year the Halifax paid £388 million in tax but according to Mr Richard Wileway, the finance director, a change in taxation methods "would have insignificant revenue implications for the society".

One reason for this is that the Halifax pays its tax bill in January before year-end on January 31. Its liquidity figure is never artificially inflated by unpaid tax so, from an accounting point of view, the change would have a minimal effect. The society calculates that, because of the timing of interest payments to investors and the receipt of interest from investments, earlier tax payments to the government would be more or less cancelled out.

The rest of the building society industry, with their strongest voice sounding so unconcerned, will have to shout even louder to be heard by the Chancellor.

SE's version of F-Plan Diet

The Stock Exchange Council is becoming dangerously hooked on its own version of the F-Plan Diet. In this case the "F" stands for Flexibility and Fragmentation.

For many years a fundamental tenet of the Stock Exchange has been that fragmentation must be avoided at all costs; in other words, its monopoly of share dealing facilities should be preserved. That monopoly has suffered erosion by nibbling in the past decade, but now there is the serious threat of competition. And the universal answer to that threat appears to be Flexibility. However, flexibility has an awkward habit of disintegrating into compromise, trimming, rule-bending and even less mentionable mental and ethical gymnastics.

The latest example of this trend has been this week's announcement that the Council is considering admitting a select band of British and American banks to membership of the Stock Exchange. It will be a new and highly restricted form of membership, confined to trading in currency options. But the very suggestion shows how thinking in Throgmorton Street these days is becoming driven by events rather than the other way round.

The plain fact is that while the Council has been dithering over the best way to transfer membership from the present 4,500 individuals to the powerful corporations waiting to take advantage of the promised land of freely negotiated commissions, those corporations have been moving smartly ahead of the game.

As expected, the biggest losers have been those banks and brokers which have signed conditional merger deals. They are committed to the future while being locked into the past. Their unfettered rivals, who include Merrill Lynch, Salomon Brothers and Dean Witter of the US and the mighty phalanx of Japanese financial houses, have been free to deal in British stocks of the telephone.

These powerful and influential groups are growing impatient with the slow and piecemeal rate of change on the Stock Exchange ahead of next year's Big Bang. The fledgling London International Financial Futures Exchange is beginning to offer a tempting array of alternatives to the traditional stock market.

So the Stock Exchange Council is taking steps to plug the leaks, as and when they arise, as and when a plug comes to hand. More fragmentation, more flexibility. All these stopgaps will be swept away by the Big Bang, but they are meanwhile helping to shape - or misshape - the structure that will replace them.

Pound rallies above \$1.10 as dollar profit-taking continues

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound closed above \$1.10 yesterday in London, as profit-taking on the dollar continued. Sterling gained 87 points to \$1.1027, with the sterling index rising 0.3 to 71.4.

The dollar, which traded at DM3.25 at one stage yesterday, closed at DM3.2650 against the mark in London, two pence down on the day. The dollar correction was said to be partly due to squaring of positions ahead of the Washington Birthday holiday on Monday.

The only official intervention appears to have been by the Bank of Japan and the dollar fell from ¥260.42 to ¥256.6 against the Japanese currency. The dollar index fell 1.0 to 151.0.

In Washington, the US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, said that the US had intervened in the foreign exchange markets. "We have intervened and we have, in fact, done so since I have been here," Mr Baker said.

However, he added that official policy remained to intervene only when markets were considered disorderly. Mr Baker said that recent intervention had had "some effect" during the dollar's rise.

Foreign exchange dealers said that any official intervention by the US had been modest and poorly signalled. Official figures were published in Washington for producer prices and industrial production. Industrial production rose by 0.4 per cent in January, after a rise of 0.5 per cent in December and 0.4 per cent in November.

Mr Baker said that the figure showed that production was on a "steady growth path" after the slowdown in the third quarter. Output was up by 5.1 per cent year on year, however, and rose by just 0.2 per cent in January, compared with 0.8 per cent in December.

Producer prices for finished goods in the US were unchanged in January, and may have declined slightly before rounding. The unchanged index last month compares with a 0.2 per cent rise in December and a 0.3 per cent increase in November.

The dollar's rise appears to have played a big part in the US inflation slowdown, with food and energy prices falling in January.

The index of producer prices for finished goods was up by just 1.1 per cent compared with a year earlier.

The slowdown in US inflation could mean that real interest rates in the US are not significantly lower than those in Britain, says Mr Michael Hughes, economist at the stockbroker de Zoete & Bevan.

He suggests that the producer price figures, taken in combination with the National Association of Purchasing Management's survey last week, showing more respondents reducing prices than raising them, underlines the scaling down of inflation expectations in the US.

In Britain, high nominal interest rates are running alongside expectations of higher inflation. In the US, lower nominal interest rates are set against expectations of low inflation or declining prices. The real interest rate difference may be negligible, and could be one explanation why sterling's response to the recent base rate rise was muted.

Yesterday, interest rates in London declined in response to sterling's improved performance. The three-month interbank rate fell by 1/4 to 13 1/4 to 13 1/2, with the money market view still that any sustained pound recovery will provide the scope for a base rate cut.

January, compared with 0.8 per cent in December.

Producer prices for finished goods in the US were unchanged in January, and may have declined slightly before rounding. The unchanged index last month compares with a 0.2 per cent rise in December and a 0.3 per cent increase in November.

The dollar's rise appears to have played a big part in the US inflation slowdown, with food and energy prices falling in January.

The index of producer prices for finished goods was up by just 1.1 per cent compared with a year earlier.

The slowdown in US inflation could mean that real interest rates in the US are not significantly lower than those in Britain, says Mr Michael Hughes, economist at the stockbroker de Zoete & Bevan.

He suggests that the producer price figures, taken in combination with the National Association of Purchasing Management's survey last week, showing more respondents reducing prices than raising them, underlines the scaling down of inflation expectations in the US.

In Britain, high nominal interest rates are running alongside expectations of higher inflation. In the US, lower nominal interest rates are set against expectations of low inflation or declining prices. The real interest rate difference may be negligible, and could be one explanation why sterling's response to the recent base rate rise was muted.

Yesterday, interest rates in London declined in response to sterling's improved performance. The three-month interbank rate fell by 1/4 to 13 1/4 to 13 1/2, with the money market view still that any sustained pound recovery will provide the scope for a base rate cut.

The three-month interbank rate fell by 1/4 to 13 1/4 to 13 1/2, with the money market view still that any sustained pound recovery will provide the scope for a base rate cut.

The money market view still that any sustained pound recovery will provide the scope for a base rate cut.

any sustained pound recovery will provide the scope for a base rate cut.

scope for a base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

scope for a base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

base rate cut.

IN BRIEF

Trust wins bid battle

Scottish Heritable Trust yesterday clinched its long-running bid for Hoskins & Horton, after institutions counting for 31.3 per cent of Hoskins ordinary shares accepted SHT's increased offer. SHT, which already owned 28.8 per cent of Hoskins, now has acceptances for 62 per cent of the ordinary shares and has declared its offer unconditional.

SHT raised its offer to seven Hoskins shares and 245p cash for two Hoskins shares worth £9.8 million. It raised its cash alternative to 343p a share, worth £9.3 million against 320p per share before.

SHT's offer entails the sale of Hoskins & Horton's quarrying and mixed concrete activities to Ticon, a subsidiary of BTR, for £5 million. Capital gains tax liability will be shared between Ticon and SHT.

Curbs lifted

Mr Alex Fletcher, minister for corporate and consumer affairs, yesterday announced that restrictions on unit trust investment in Japan were to be loosened. He said the maximum amount unit trusts would be allowed to invest in Japanese over the counter stocks would be raised from five per cent to 25 per cent of the fund.

Iraqi oil deal

Turkey and Iraq are to sign an agreement next month for a second pipeline to carry Iraqi oil through Turkey to the Mediterranean. An Ankara official said five consortia had been given tender documents and a decision was due by May 1.

The 1928 Investment Trust, which is controlled by London and Manchester Assurance, announced yesterday that it now holds a 5.5 per cent stake in Aitken Home, the investment group headed by Messrs Jonathan and Timothy Aitken. The extra shares were bought on January 11, but not notified because of an administrative error.

Market move

Thermalite, a concrete building block manufacturer is said to be considering a stock market debut which could value the group at £60 million. The former Laing Group company was bought out by the management two years ago for £14 million. Profits last year totalled £6 million compared with £4 million the previous year.

Gains at Imnos

Imnos, the microchip company sold by the Government to Thorn EMI, saw a 1984 turnaround, with £20.6 million net operating profit compared with a loss of £10.8 million in 1983. Sales increased from £37.8 million to £110.8 million.

TV report on Barratt 'not unfair'

By Cliff Feltham

The sagging morale of the Barratt housing building group following a critical report on timber-framed housing by the World in Action television programme has suffered a further knock after rejection of complaints about the controversial programme by the independent Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

In addition to the objections raised by Sir Laurie Barratt's group, complaints were made by the National House Building Council.



Sir Laurie Barratt: new setback

After months of investigation, the commission decided last month it is understood, to reject the complaints by the NHBC.

Normally, the commission's adjudication would have been published at that time. However, in an unprecedented move, the NHBC decided to take action in the High Court to have the case reheard by the commission. A date for the High Court hearing has not yet been fixed.

The NHBC says there were "certain areas of disagreement" but will not say what the commission's findings were.

Both the NHBC and Barratt say their complaints were made independently and are thought to relate to different aspects of the programme. Barratt's own complaints about the programme on housing techniques, and a further one on first-time buyers, are still being heard by the commission.

The large volume of technical evidence being presented means no early outcome is likely. A spokesman for Barratt, commenting on rejection of the NHBC complaints, said: "I don't think this affects us at all".

Hang Seng surges on Wheelock bid

By Graham Serjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices in Hong Kong surged to their highest level for 32 months yesterday after the takeover bid for Wheelock Marden, a key group with wide interests throughout the colony. The Hang Seng index rose 52 points to 1,406 in heavy trading with local institutions buying a variety of stocks.

The takeover bid, made through a company controlled by Tan Sri Khoo, of Singapore, a Chinese banking and hotels magnate, was seen as the most tangible evidence so far of confidence in Hong Kong after the Anglo-Chinese agreement over the colony's future.

It has been symbolically contrasted with the earlier decision by Jardine Matheson to move its legal base to Bermuda. Tan Sri Khoo, a close associate of the oil-rich Sultan of Brunei, is thought to want to establish his centre of operations in Hong Kong.

Shares in Wheelock Marden quoted on the stock exchange

after a short suspension, rapidly moved ahead of the HK\$1.9 billion (£223 million) cash offer. The most-traded, but low-voting "A" shares, which had moved ahead on rumours before the bid, rose again, from HK\$5.80 to HK\$6.40, compared to the offer price of HK\$6. The "B" shares which carry most of the votes, gained 15 cents to 65 cents, against an offer price of 60 cents.

Mr John Marden, the WM chairman, whose father brought WM to the Shanghai stock exchange in 1932 after gaining control of the old Wheelock group, has now sold out to Tan Sri Khoo.

Mr John Cheung, who runs the property offshoot Hongkong Realty, is thought to control about a quarter of the votes in WM and is hoping to gain control with the help of other local interests. But Tan Sri Khoo is thought to have bought large blocks of "A" shares from London.

The stock was announced at the close of a buoyant day for the gilt-edged market, during which prices rose by more than 3/4 point at the long end. The Government Broker activated his existing tap, Exchequer 11 per cent 1990, and market sources suggested approximately £400 million or more was sold in partly-paid form. Traders were disappointed, however, that the whole issue failed to sell out.

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Tempus, page 13

Yarrow to drop bid for Clyde yard

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Yarrow announced yesterday that it has dropped out of the bidding for its former warship yard on the Clyde, now being sold as part of the Government's privatisation programme. There is now little or no prospect of any of Britain's warship yards, which were controversially nationalized in 1977, returning to their former owners.

Yesterday was the deadline for bids to be submitted for both the Yarrow yard and another smaller British shipbuilders' warship yard, Hall Russell in Aberdeen.

Lazard's, the merchant bank handling the sales, said it had received a "satisfactory" response with bids for both yards. It would not comment on the number of bids or who they were from. Both GEC and Trafalgar House have been mentioned as possible bidders.

Mr Ian Mann, Yarrow finance director, said the two principal factors behind the decision were doubts about the company's ability to finance the acquisition and the wisdom of returning to naval shipbuilding after eight years.

Both the Yarrow and Hall Russell yards look likely to be bought by outside bidders.

Grim forecast for Third World

By Michael Prest

There is a serious risk that Third World debt will increase without any improvement in the ability of borrowing countries to manage their obligations, according to a senior World Bank official.

Speaking at a conference held in London by the Bank to discuss its development policy, Mr Nicholas Lope, chief of the Bank's external debt division, forecast that Third World debt will rise to \$970 billion (£890 billion) this year, compared with \$890 billion last year.

But Mr Lope said that the combination of lower real interest rates, high export growth, more official financing, and greater creditor confidence in the Third World needed to improve its borrowers' debt-servicing capacity seemed unlikely to occur in the next few years.

At the same meeting Lord Seebom argued for a common code of practice for private investment in developing countries.

He listed seven criteria for companies: freedom to employ expatriates; freedom to pay dividends, profits and salaries as they wish; repatriation of funds should not be imposed; no nationalization without proper compensation; majority local holdings should not be compulsory; an agreed dispute procedure; and all those conditions should apply equally to all private companies in the country.

Both the NHBC and Barratt say their complaints were made independently and are thought to relate to different aspects of the programme. Barratt's own complaints about the programme on housing techniques, and a further one on first-time buyers, are still being heard by the commission.

The large volume of technical evidence being presented means no early outcome is likely. A spokesman for Barratt,

3 UNIT TRUSTS

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the Fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,012 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £436 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £953 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,320 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the FT Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares, and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	FT INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	-	-	£10,000
1965	£396	£436	10,000
1970	463	650	10,000
1975	628	971	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	10,000
1984	2,012	853	10,000

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate for a Building Society's Association. M&G Dividend Fund figures are all realisation values.

On 12th February 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields are: Income Accumulation Yield Dividend Fund 299.1p 830.3p 5.52% Recovery Fund 238.6p 298.3p 4.13% M&G SECONDO General 238.6p 1012.3p 3.83%

Price and yield figures are given in the Financial Times. The price of £1 is included in the offered price and the annual charge of 1p. The M&G Funds' value is currently 1.00 plus VAT (deducted from gross income currently 1.00 plus VAT). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested in the fund and income units if it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates: Dividend Recovery SECONDO Distributions 15 Jan 20 Feb 15 Feb 15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug 15 Oct 20 Nov 15 Nov 1985 1985 1985

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Penetration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclay Bank Investment Co. Limited and for SECONDO are F&G FIC. The Funds are all under-charge investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4585. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

M&G SUNDAY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405	36,769

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate for a Building Society's Association. M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECONDO General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECONDO	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,947	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	81,843	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494	49,931
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate for a Building Society's Association. M&G SECONDO General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April, 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice. A minimum investment in each Fund (£1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

DIVIDEND £ -00

RECOVERY £ -00

SECONDO £ -00

TU 480715

SIGNATURE

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

Signature of investor or if joint, of both investors. If the investor is a minor, the signature of the parent or guardian must be obtained.

First-time buyers can cash in on 100% home loans

MORTGAGES

The eagerness of the building societies to lend is becoming increasingly obvious. They are flush with funds but beginning to get anxious that mortgage demand remains unusually low. Their latest marketing ploy is to make 100 per cent mortgages easier to obtain than ever before.

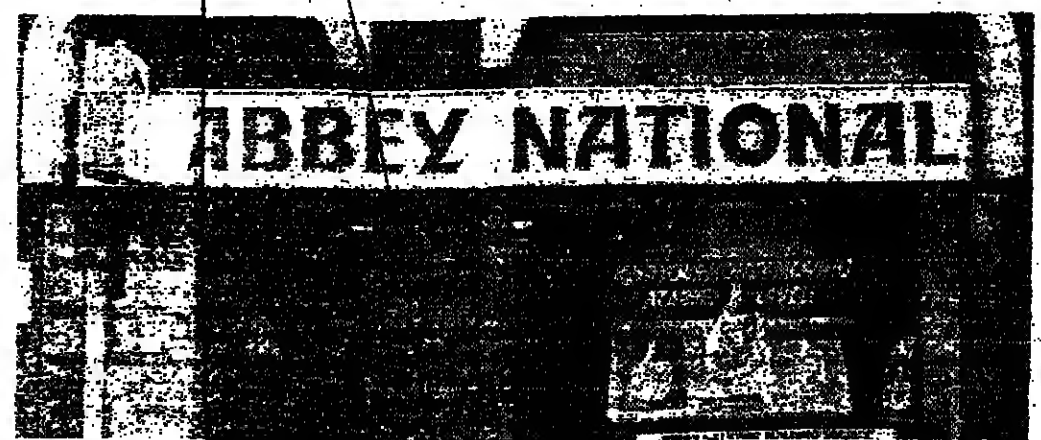
Those most likely to benefit from 100 per cent home loans - a loan for the full purchase or valuation price of the house - are first-time buyers. Such people are often paying high rents in private accommodation and are too young to have saved the necessary deposit on a house.

Since their earning power tends to be low, building societies have previously been reluctant to hand over a loan of 100 per cent on which the repayments are higher than on smaller loans. Moreover, 100 per cent loans represent a greater risk for the lender than a loan for, say, 80 per cent of the property value.

This attitude is changing. The Midshires building society has recently started advertising 100 per cent loans and many of the big societies are also more willing to consider them.

The simplest type of 100 per cent home loan is when the building society agrees to advance the whole amount to the borrower directly out of its own funds. Their requirements for giving these loans are flexible and tend to be broadly the same from one society to another.

The Halifax, for example, says it prefers to give 100 per cent loans to first-time buyers. Its maximum loan of £35,000 is not regarded as excessive for first-time buyers.



Push with cash: building societies are ready to lend 100%

The Halifax, in common with many societies, does not require 100 per cent borrowers to be investors. "They don't have to be members but of managers tend to restrict the loans to members with good savings records", Mr Roy Ravenscroft, assistant general manager, reported.

The message from most societies is simply that as long as the potential borrower has a reasonable salary and a secure job, he will be considered for a 100 per cent loan.

Before taking out a mortgage for the full house price, the borrower should know exactly on the interest rate charged. The extra 10 or 20 per cent he is borrowing above a normal mortgage could burn him up into a higher interest rate band for the whole of his life. So a borrower with the Halifax, for example, taking out a £28,000 loan to buy a house worth £32,000 would currently pay interest at 13.5 per cent. But if he borrows the full £1,000 he will have to pay 0.5 per cent more.

Only two societies do not apply differentials to bigger loans: the Nationwide and the Woolwich. While the Nationwide lends up to 100 per cent of a property's value, it is not keen to do so. The Woolwich will not even consider the idea.

The other type of 100 per cent mortgage is an ordinary loan of, say 80 per cent, from the building society topped up by a further loan from an insurance company. This top-up package is the type now being marketed actively by the Midshires building society.

It should be treated with caution. The Midshires package offers a loan from the society of 75 to 85 per cent of the property value at the endowment mortgage rate. On this part of the loan a borrower would pay 14.375 per cent on a £32,000 mortgage. On the remaining top-up portion of the loan, supplied by Royal Insurance under this scheme, the borrower would pay 14 per cent.

But while the building society's part of the loan is at a

variable rate, as with other society loans, the top-up rate is fixed. That is fine if interest rates rise or stay the same. But they are already at historically high levels. If and when they fall again, a borrower taking out a top-up loan could pay several percentage points above the prevailing market level.

Though not all top-up packages include a fixed-rate element, it is worth checking because the costs may be considerably higher than other methods.

While building societies are waking up to the idea of 100 per cent mortgages, banks are more reluctant. None of the American banks, for example, which have recently entered the British mortgage market so aggressively will lend more than 90 or 95 per cent. The reason is simple. They do not have spare funds. They fund their lending from the money markets and are more able to keep their supply of funds in line with demand. But building society rates are not so flexible and at the moment there is an excess of deposits over demand. If this continues, the answer will be for building societies to reduce their rates.

Richard Thomson

Building Society Choice

Our apologies to Building Society Choice for incorrectly stating that their computer-based update on building society investment account "best buys" did not contain the North Wiltshire and Ridgeway Building Society. As their table showed, reproduced alongside, this building society was indeed included in their listings. It was not our intention to detract from their service, merely to highlight the difficulties of keeping abreast of changes in building society rates.

TOP SOCIETIES' MAXIMUM LOANS

	100%?	All from soc funds	Max £	Top up
Halifax	yes	yes	35,000	-
Abbey Nat	yes	yes	35,000	-
Nationwide	yes	yes	30,000	-
Woolwich	yes	depends	40,000	variable
Nat & Provincial	yes	no (80%)	40,000	-
Anglia	yes	yes	30,000	-
Alliance	yes	yes	35,000	-
Bradford & Bmg	yes	yes	40,000	-
Leicester	yes	yes	30,000	-
Britannia	no (95% max)	-	-	-
C & G	no (95% max)	-	-	-
Bristol & West	yes	yes	30,000	-
Yorkshire	yes	yes	depends	-
Gateway	yes	yes	depends	-
Northern Rock	yes	yes	depends	-
Midshires	yes	yes	40,000	fixed rate
Leeds Permanent	yes	no	40,000	depends

Table compiled by Richard Hale

HIGHEST RATES FOR SEVEN-DAY MONEY!



UP TO **9.50% = 13.57%** PA GROSS
Super rates for £500-plus investors... and no penalties!

With simple, flexible Money Spinner Plus Northern Rock tops all leading U.K. building societies for seven-day money. Withdrawals require just seven days' notice and incur no penalties. You get big interest for the minimum investment of £500. The table shows how you can earn even more for larger amounts.

Maximum investment is £30,000 (£60,000 jointly). Interest is paid annually in October or you can receive it as monthly income.

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PA*	GROSS PA†
£500 or more	9.00%	12.86%
£5,000 or more	9.25%	13.21%
£20,000 or more	9.50%	13.57%

*The rate only varies if the rate of the basic rate rises.

†Equivalent yield for basic rate taxpayers.

Enquire at any Northern Rock branch or write to us FREEPOST Newcastle

Member of the Building Societies Association

Authorised for investment by Trustees. Branches and Agents throughout the U.K. Assets exceed £1,300 million.

NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY People with your interest at heart.

Ian Chapman, Northern Rock Building Society, FREEPOST, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1BR.

Chief Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. Telephone: 091-285 7191.

City of London Office: Stone House, 128/140 Bishopsgate EC2M 4HX. Telephone: 01-247 6861.

Scottish Office: 27 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN. Telephone: 031-226 3401.

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECONDO General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

	5 YEARS from 1 Jan 1980	10 YEARS from 1 Jan 1980	15 YEARS from 1 Jan 1980
Amount Invested	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,706
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECONDO	2,039	7,262	15,320
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wide-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 0.4%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

FAMILY MONEY

Rothschild trusts

A range of inheritance trusts is being offered by Rothschild Trust Company designed to enable wealthy individuals to start a new trust or transfer tax planning to a new generation.

To transfer the assets to include a trust, the settlor must be a resident of the UK and the trust must be established by a deed. The settlor must also be a resident of the UK and the trust must be established by a deed.

Money transferred to the trust is held in a separate fund and the settlor can receive income from the fund at any time. The trust can also be used to transfer assets to a new generation.

Details of the trusts can be obtained from Rothschild Trust Company, 10, The Quadrant, London WC2N 2AF. The trusts are designed to transfer assets to a new generation and can be used to transfer assets to a new generation.

New from Barclays

Barclays Bank is launching a new high interest deposit account on March 18. It will be available to personal customers and the minimum investment will be £1,000. Barclays is not yet announcing what rate of interest the new deposit account will pay - it will depend on money market rates at the time but it does say the rate will be higher than the ordinary seven days' notice account.

Deposits over £10,000 will earn still higher interest while the rate will be reduced to the ordinary seven-day deposit rate if you allow the balance in the account to fall below £1,000. Withdrawals can be made at any time and there will be no penalties.

Clearly this is a better deal than the ordinary seven days' notice account - even if you cannot afford to keep the £1,000 minimum balance in the account, as there are no penalties for immediate withdrawal. With the ordinary seven days' notice account you lose seven days' interest if you do not give notice of withdrawal. Details from Barclays Bank branches.

10% income

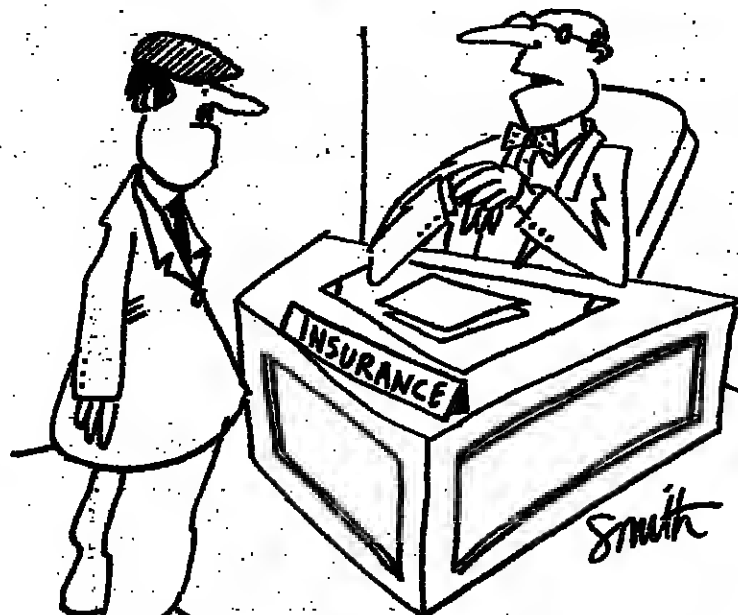
General Portfolio Life has revised its guaranteed income bond rates and is now paying as much as 10 per cent on four-year bonds. The income is paid net of basic rate tax, although higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on encashment. Details from General Portfolio Life, Valley House, Crossbrook Street, Chesham, Bucks, EN8 6JH. (Tel: Watlington Cross 31971.)

Yups scheme

Insurance company marketing is definitely becoming more trendy with companies like UK Provident jumping on the "Yups" bandwagon offering a savings scheme for "young upwardly mobile and professional" investors.

Aimed at the under-35s, UK Provident's Planned Investment Plus is a regular savings plan with a low start premium which gradually increases to the full rate by year six. An initial investment of £20 a month offers a guaranteed £3,000 after 10 years with projected bonuses (estimated) bringing the total return up to £8,338, tax free. Worthwhile life cover is thrown in - a man aged 30 would get £11,700 worth, which would increase by the addition of bonuses. As an initial incentive, UK Provident is offering the first month's premium up to £20 free. The guaranteed and projected total returns would put UK Provident among the top performers if it manages to meet its projections.

Alternatively, there is the UK Provident's Money Max 10 policy which requires no medical evidence of good health. A £30 a month investment would show a projected return of £6,882 after



"I'm sorry, but we don't have a no claims bonus on life assurance"

10 years, with a guaranteed return of £3,321. If UK Provident meets its projections, the return is equivalent to an annual net yield of 12.71 per cent.

This policy too has a special offer of the first month's premium free. Investors wanting to take advantage of the special offer must have their application in by April 30, 1985. Details from UK Provident, United Kingdom House, Castia Street, Salisbury SP1 3SM.

Money talks

Financial seminars are becoming increasingly popular and Lady Wardington, who organizes money courses for women at the Stock

Exchange and other City venues, has been called in to set up something similar for readers of *Woman's Journal*.

The seminar takes place at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on April 24. Application forms are in the March issue of *Woman's Journal*. Speakers include Arnold Horner, accountant and senior lecturer in taxation at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic; Margaret Allen, financial consultant; Brian Baughan, investment adviser and member of the Stock Exchange; and Louise Botting, financial consultant.

The seminar lasts from 10am to 4.30pm lunch and wine is included in the price of £37.50. Full details in the March issue of *Woman's Journal*.

Dearer mortgages

Two of the clearing banks have just raised their mortgage rates. Lloyds increased its home loans rate to 13.25 per cent and simultaneously abolished the system of rate differentials which it introduced less than six months ago. Its rates varied from 5 basic cost of 11.75 per cent up to 12.75 for loans over £50,000. The new rate, therefore, means a jump of 1.5 per cent for some borrowers.

Midland also raised its mortgage rate by one percentage point, from 12.5 to 13.5 per cent. Midland fixes its borrowers repayments annually, however, so repayments will remain unaltered until the next annual review.

Alliance extra

A new high interest account from Alliance Building Society is paying 9.5 per cent net of basic rate tax with the 2 per cent differential above the ordinary share rate guaranteed for a full year from the date of investment. To earn this higher rate of interest, you must be prepared to invest a minimum of £1,000 (maximum £30,000) and leave your money untouched for a year.

No withdrawals are permitted during the first 12 months. Interest is paid half-yearly but it can be taken monthly and paid direct into an Alliance ordinary share or Banksava account. Full details from Alliance branches.

Bucking a trend

John Fairman, deputy chairman of M&G fund managers, was bucking the trend towards financial conglomerates when he said: "I do believe that a large investment house should not offer comprehensive financial planning services". While an investment house may provide all the ingredients, it must be left to other specialists to actually offer the service to the individual. By other, I mean professional advisers who are independent and impartial.

"Employed salesmen and tied agents are, by definition, partial and naturally biased in favour of their own companies and products."

"On the other hand, independent professional financial advisers are accustomed to shopping around for the most suitable fund or policy."

Tax saving guide

There's nothing like a check list to jog the memory, so call in at any office of accountants Arthur Andersen & Co for a free copy of the firm's booklet, *Individual Year-End Tax Planning 1984/85*.

"With all the rumours about pensions, it would be sensible for everybody to consider their personal position and the booklet points out the important areas and the advantages still available," says Mr David Marks, of Arthur Andersen.

"We haven't attempted to predict what will be in the Budget, but there are a lot of ideas for tax saving."

Lloyds 13% account

Interest of 13 per cent will be paid on deposits of £2,500 or more invested in Lloyds Bank's new High Interest Cheque Account, available from Monday. Customers will be able to write cheques in the normal way, withdrawn up to £300 a day without formally from the bank's network of 15,000 cash machines and, unlike many other similar accounts, there will be no minimum amount constraint on writing cheques. Customers will also receive a cheque guarantee card as on a normal current account.

The minimum investment is £2,500 but if your balance falls below that amount, interest will drop to 10.5 per cent, - less than is paid on Lloyds' seven-day deposit account. The biggest drawback with the account is that you can write only three cheques a quarter free of charge - after that you pay 50p a cheque. This account is one to use as a deposit account and treat the cheque book facility as a convenient way to transfer money into your current account.

The Lloyds account does not come anywhere near the market leader - Citibank's Savings Cheque Plus account which pays money market interest rates has no minimum investment, full cheque book facilities with no minimum withdrawal, and has no charges for writing cheques.

INCOME

Mercury launches US fund

A new American Income Fund has been launched by Mercury Fund Managers, the fund management subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management. Most funds investing in the US launched over the last two years have aimed at capital growth. The Mercury fund reflects the opinion of many unit trust managers that it is not to invest in income-producing equities in present stock market conditions.

The fund aims to produce a gross yield of 5.5 per cent compared with an average yield in the US and Britain of 4.5 per cent. The company claims. However, Mercury also intends to produce some capital gains on the fund by investing in high yielding stocks which are also undervalued.

A further reason for launching the fund is that corporation tax on overseas investments at 52 per cent was prohibitive, but now that the tax rate is falling, the return from a US income fund will become more attractive.

As protection against a possible fall in the dollar, 50 per cent of the fund will be "hedged" at the outset. A proportion of the fund will be held in convertible stocks and fixed interest to protect the fund's yield.

Richard Thomson

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEMES

Beat the Budget with property investment

Details are now available of the de Broe Hill Chaplin; and St James' Estates business expansion company which will be developing residential property in London.

United Trust and Credit is sponsoring the new BES scheme which is seeking to raise up to £6 million with an offer of 10 million 25p ordinary shares at 60p each. Application lists open on Monday and close no later than March 15, four days before the Budget.

Like the other asset-backed BES schemes, St James' is hoping to raise the money before any possible intervention by the Chancellor in disallowing property development as a qualifying BES investment. However, it is believed that the Chancellor is disappointed at the relatively small amounts which have gone into BES funds and supports the concept. He will be reluctant to make a move this time round.

Investors in BES schemes qualify for income tax relief at their highest rate paid on up to £40,000 invested during the current tax year. Investments must remain within the BES scheme for a minimum of five years to be eligible for full tax relief.

St James' Estates is one of a clutch of property-based BES schemes currently on offer. Others include London & Bristol Developments and City United Trust & Credit, is Gate Estates, both sponsored by Johnson Fry; Lockton Developments, sponsored by Guinness Mahon; Restway Retirement Management, 55 Grosvenor Homes, sponsored by the Street, London W1X 9DB (Tel: stockbroking firm of Williams 01-499 0223).

Does your money matter?

If your answer is YES, sound financial management can make all the difference.

Schroders, in recognising this need, have created an important new company, which brings together the group's financial skills and products for individuals, partnerships and private companies.

It's called Schroder Financial Management Limited. Return the coupon for an informative brochure.

To: Schroder Financial Management Limited, FREEPOST Enterprise House, Portsmouth PO1 1PR. (Telephone Christopher Whitmore 01-373 6102). Please send me a brochure about Schroder Financial Management.

Name _____ Address _____

Financial Adviser (if any) _____

Schroder Financial Management Limited

UNIT TRUSTS · LIFE ASSURANCE · PENSIONS · ASSET MANAGEMENT

Self-employed?



At 65 you can go on working

At 65 you can take a State Pension (women at 60).

At 60 or later, retired or not, you can take a pension from our Flexible Retirement Plan.

If you are self-employed you will have to make your own pension arrangements.

Otherwise, you might end up on a State Pension, which could mean changing your whole way of life, or you could be forced to continue working when you would prefer to be enjoying your hard-earned retirement.

Our Flexible Retirement Plan provides the answer. *It's for anyone who is self-employed, or has non-pensionable earnings.

It provides an income for life on retirement, with the option of a tax-free cash sum.

And it's so flexible it can be adapted to suit everyone's needs.

Flexibility on retirement

You can take your benefits at any age between 60 and 75 even if you are still working.

If you wish, you can phase in your retirement by taking benefits in stages to add to your income.

When you do decide to retire, you can choose whatever combination of tax-free cash, pension (and dependant's pension) suits you best.

Choose how you invest

You can choose regular or single contributions and increase them or, after a year, decrease them when you like. You can miss a year now and again. You can even arrange to have your contributions paid by us if you are ill for a long time.

Important tax relief

Your contributions qualify for tax relief at the highest rate you pay on earned income.

So for every £100 you invest the actual cost to you is between £40 and £70.

*Currently £35.80 a week (single person), £57.30 a week (married couple).

Top investment skills

How much pension you actually get depends on the skill of the investment managers. With the Flexible Retirement Plan your money is in exceptionally good hands.

You can invest in a range of 10 UK and international funds, managed by teams from Fidelity International, one of the top performing UK unit trust groups, and Clerical Medical, a leading UK life office with an outstanding record of returns for its with-profits policyholders.

Start here and now

Starting a Plan early can make thousands of pounds difference to your benefits. Don't delay.

Contact your insurance/financial adviser. Or post the coupon. No stamp required.

NEW! Flexible Retirement Plan

To: Geoffrey Jones, Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0AB.

Please send me further details of your Flexible Retirement Plan.

Name _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/etc. _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Business) _____

My insurance/financial adviser is _____

I am interested in: Regular Contributions ☐ Single Contributions ☐

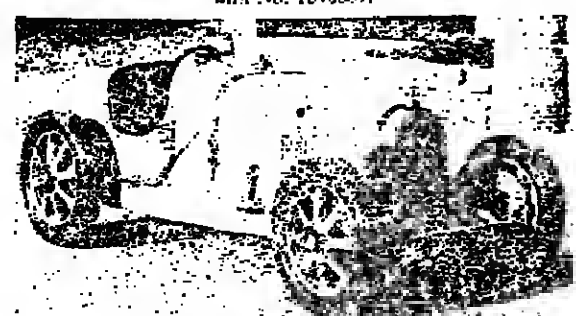


FAMILY MONEY

This advertisement is not a prospectus nor does it constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for shares in Antique and Collectors Cars plc. Applications may be made only on the application form which is annexed to the prospectus.

Antique and Collectors Cars plc

(Registered in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1983 with No. 1840839)



OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION

by EARNSHAW, HAES & SONS
Under the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme of

4,000,000 10p Ordinary Shares at 50p per Share

The Company will acquire, restore, promote and sell collectors cars in the price range £20,000 - £200,000 from the Vintage period to the Modern Classics. (An example in the increase in value is the Bugatti 35B (shown above) valued at £11,000 in 1974 and £100,000 in 1984—appreciation of 909%).

The board of directors consists of:—
Sir Montague Prichard CBE, MC (Chairman)—was previously chairman of Perkins Engines Group, Vice-president of the Motor Manufacturers and Traders Association and president of the Motor Industry Research Association.
Christopher Drake (Managing Director)—ran his own collectors cars dealing company and has extensive knowledge of the market.

Sir Clive Bossom Bt—ex-chairman of RAC and British Motor Sports Council, currently president of the British Automobile Racing Club.

Fenton Higgins FCA (Financial Director)—founder partner of a West End firm of chartered accountants Higgins & Messias.

Richard Crump—one of the foremost authorities on Italian sports and competition cars on which he has written seven books.

Copies of the prospectus can be obtained from Earnshaw, Haes & Sons, 17 Tokenhouse Yard London EC2 1JL. 011-588 5699

Issued by Earnshaw, Haes & Sons on behalf of the Company. Offer closes 22nd February 1985

ESTATE EXECUTORSHIP

Finding a will and a way to cut costs

"Do not leave your money to chance," says the glossy Barclays booklet, *Wills and Trusts*, currently being offered to customers.

Appointing a bank as executor of your estate can be an expensive business, particularly if it is a simple affair. Just how expensive was pointed out to us recently by one reader who decided to deal with his mother's estate himself rather than give the job to his bank—in this case Barclays.

He writes: "My mother died in May 1984 and I wound up her estate as sole acting executor. She left £106,850—four separate legacies of £100 with the residue divided equally between my brother and myself."

Our reader points out that being an executor is a time-consuming business—you have to value the assets and get grant of probate, and there is a lot of administration. But when he worked out what his bank would have charged the estate for doing it, he was in no doubt that he had done the right thing. Barclays, by my calculations, would have charged £6,930 including VAT for its services.

How does a bank like Barclays go about charging for its executorship services? There is an initial £500 "responsibility fee" for taking on the estate. Then there is a charge of 2.5 per cent on the first £250,000. That alone would have cost our reader and his brother £3,171 on the gross value.

Then there is a scale of "activity fees." The bank's trust company charges £265 for every "relevant beneficiary" plus £50 for handling every asset over the value of £500 or 10 per cent of the value of every asset less than that. According to our reader's estimates of the amount of work he did, the bank's fees would have come to over £6,000 in total, with VAT

bringing the sum up to nearly £7,000.

Executor fees are a fraught subject. On the one hand a lot of people regard the bank as a responsible executor—it is always there and it is honest. On the other, the beneficiaries of a will are often horrified to see what the bank charges are to distribute a simple estate. Our reader was in the position of choosing whether to turn the executorship over to the bank (his mother did not appoint any bank).

Most beneficiaries do not have the option. Where the bank has been appointed executor in the deceased's will, unless the beneficiaries can

persuade it to relinquish the job, the estate is charged these hefty fees.

The big four banks have varying fee structures for executorship services, but without knowing the details of a particular estate, it is impossible to say which would work out the cheapest. The common denominator is the substantial fee levied on the gross value of the estate up front—regardless of how much work there is involved.

Lloyds and Midland, for instance, charge 3 per cent on the estates up to £100,000 with 2 per cent on the next £250,000. But this is only the beginning. On top of the "responsibility

fees" come service or activity fees. Lloyds charges £40 for handling each asset, £24 for handling each liability (like the gas bill, for instance) and £16 plus broker's commission plus VAT on both for selling a shareholding.

Midland, on the other hand reckons in terms of "units" at £11.50 each with a minimum per estate of £250. The maximum number of units charged for any one "activity" is four. National Westminster, on the other hand, has a larger upfront fee than any of the banks. It charges 5 per cent on the first £50,000 and 3 per cent on the next £50,000 plus 2 per cent on amounts over and above this.

AFTER PAYING OUR FEES, OLD BOY, YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO AFFORD A CARDBOARD BOX!



COMMISSION

Advice for a fee can be better

The move by an increasing number of investment advisers away from commissions towards a fee-paying structure may not always be welcomed by the client, but should result in a better advice service.

Hargreaves Lansdown, investment adviser, is the latest to make the move. It will charge a £25 fee for arranging a unit trust regular saving scheme, but any commission earned will be related to the client in the form of extra units. With minimum investments of £10 a month the norm, the fee represents the 20 per cent Hargreaves Lansdown would earn in commission from unit trust groups which pay up to 20 per cent of the first year's premiums in commissions. It is a good deal, however, for anyone investing more than £10 a month, as the value of the rebated commission will be greater than the £25 fee. The investor also gets a year's subscription to Hargreaves Lansdown's publication, *The Unit Trust Investor*.

Commission as a form of remuneration has enormous drawbacks: varying levels offered by competing firms mean that the unscrupulous adviser will recommend an investment paying the highest commission rather than that offering the best prospects for the investor. And, of course, some of the best products pay no commission at all and were therefore never recommended by some advisers.

The Unit Trust Association's decision to allow commission of up to 20 per cent of the first year's premiums on regular savings schemes was not greeted with enthusiasm by all members of the association. Groups such as M & G, Fremington and Profitop opposed what they saw as a retrograde step.

NatWest does not appear to publish a fee scale and inquiries at the bank resulted in the information that there are additional "discretionary charges", according to the work done.

The banks it must be said in fairness, have a problem on cost. As one bank trust department pointed out, "the whole business of sorting out an estate is labour-intensive and time-consuming. And there can be just as much work involved in dealing with a relatively small estate of say, £25,000 as with an estate 10 times that size." Hence, the substantial "responsibility fees" charged on the gross value.

Solicitors have no scale rate—they charge, usually by the hour, for the work done. If it is a lot, they will probably work out as expensive as the banks.

On a relatively simple job where the main asset is a house to be sold and divided between a couple of children, a solicitor might well work out cheaper.

The third course, if it is open to you, is to do what our reader did and do it yourself—persuade your aged parents to nominate you as an executor in place of a bank or a solicitor.

Trust departments cite cases where lay executors have simply given up half-way through winding up an estate, simply because it became too much for them.

Our reader clearly thought that the trouble was worth it—he and his brother are nearly £7,000 better off between them as a result. If you find yourself acting as an executor there are books available on the subject, including *Wills and Probate* published by the Consumers Association. It costs £5.95 and is available from bookshops, or from the CA direct—the address is: Castlemead, Gascayne, Hertford, ST14 1JH.

Maggie Drummond

With a healthy pension under your belt, a good evening out won't be out of the question when you retire.

In fact, retirement is the time to sit

lot more pension in the pockets of those who are self-employed or not in a company pension scheme.

Money that will let you paint the town red without going into the red.

NPI's excellent reputation for healthy retirement provision has been 150 years in the making.

And thoroughly deserved, as any reputable financial adviser will tell you.

He'll also tell you how SERP's flexibility enables

Want your pension to suit your lifestyle? Choose NPI, for the no.1 pension plan.

back and enjoy the fruits of your pension planning.

And, when it comes to pensions, there can be few as fruitful as an NPI Self-Employed Retirement Plan (SERP).

Over the last eleven years "Planned Savings" magazine has conducted an annual survey of personal pension plans based on their past performance.

In every one of these reviews we have been in the top four with profit plans.

In the December 1984 survey, the performance of our SERP policy, reviewed over the longer term, gained us the coveted top position for the fourth time.

"Planned Savings" is one of the most respected independent authorities on personal pension plans.

So, being top of their survey is rather like winning an Oscar for best performance.

The sort of performance that can put a

us to adjust your pension contributions to suit your circumstances exactly.

And how, in the event of new pensions legislation, your plan will be modified without any administrative charge.

If you'd like to find out what the No. 1 pension plan could do for you, post the coupon today.

In return we'll send you our easy to understand SERP booklet. The easy way to put more style into your life when you retire.

To: John Fisher, National Provident Institution, 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BB. Please send me a copy of your "Self-Employed Retirement Plan" Booklet.

Name _____

Address _____

Name of financial adviser (if any) _____

NPI
IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of The Stock Exchange.

Nationwide Building Society

(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)

Placing of £17,500,000 12½ per cent Bonds due 24th February 1986.

Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the External Statistical Services. Copies may be obtained from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 19th February 1985 or until 4th March 1985 from:—

Fulton Packshaw Ltd., 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JT

Laurie, Milbank & Co., Portland House, 72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP

Rowe & Pitman, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA
16th February 1985

* 12.8%

A YEAR
IMMEDIATE INCOME PAID FREE OF TAX
from
Britannia Jersey Gift Fund Limited

- **THE FUND** — primarily invests in "exempt" British Government Securities (Gilts). These are Gilts which are not liable to any U.K. taxation.
- **QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS** — paid free of any withholding taxes.
- **A REAL RETURN** — inflation is only about 3%, the Fund therefore provides a real return of more than 7%.
- **NO FIXED TERM** — the investment can be held for as long as you wish you can sell at any time, on any business day.
- **MINIMUM INVESTMENT** — £1000 lump sum or £50 minimum per month in the Britannia Accumulation Savings Account.

*NOTE—U.K. resident shareholders will, depending on their circumstances, be liable to U.K. taxation in respect of dividends they receive. Investors should recognise that while Gilts provide very high immediate returns, the prospects of capital gain in the future may vary. The fund should therefore be considered as part of an overall balanced portfolio.

ABOUT BRITANNIA GROUP
Britannia Group is the leading investment Management Group in the U.K., Channel Islands and U.S.A. and now manages in excess of £4,000m. on behalf of 150,000 investors worldwide, including 1,000 institutional clients from its offices in London, Jersey, Denver and Boston. **COMPLETE COUPON** — and receive detailed letters together with our latest investment bulletin and the Fund brochure, including your application form. *Calculated as at 11th February 1985

Britannia Jersey Gift Fund Limited
P.O. Box 271, Queensway House, Queen Street, St Helier, Jersey Channel Islands. Telephone 0534 73114.
The Fund is based in Jersey and is listed on The Stock Exchange, London.

For full details of the Fund's investment policy, please request a copy of the Fund's Prospectus from the Fund Manager, Britannia Jersey Gift Fund Limited, c/o The Stock Exchange, 12, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 2DL. Please send one day's notice to the Fund Manager. Application will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

FAMILY MONEY

BUILDING SOCIETIES

The lingering spectre of dearer home loans

Building society borrowers ought to be up in arms. This week Mr. Richard Hornby, chairman of Halifax Building Society, raised the spectre of even higher home loan rates when many building societies are becoming anxious about how they will actually get their money out on loan, since the free availability of mortgages has disappeared. "We can't accept most reasonable requests," confirms Mr. Brian Firmin of Abbey National, a society which has a range of differentials rising to 13.75 per cent for sums of £30,000 or more.

"The home loan market has not picked up to quite the degree that we normally expect at this time of the year. We have fairly healthy demand, but we are able to deal with virtually all applications," says Mr. Firmin.

"Most building societies, especially the major ones, must be hoping that the next move in interest rates will be down if the mortgage rate were increased again. I think we might start to price ourselves out of the market; we are at the margin now."

But would the Abbey National advertise mortgages rather than stimulate demand by dropping loan rates? "I am not saying we will advertise, but it is something we might consider," said Mr. Firmin.

Bristol & West, another society with high differentials on loans, tells a similar tale. "Loans - easy as winking," says Mr. Brian Norris.

"We will lend up to three times earnings on any reasonable property and anybody can have it," Bristol & West is happy to lend to both members and non-members alike.

However, Bristol & West, in common with Britannia and others, believes that it is better to advertise home loans if necessary, rather than drop their rates. "We have taken radio advertisements in the South and South-east and used local papers and our own branch windows to advertise home loans," says Mr. Norris.

He takes the view that advertising home loans is justified because it enables a society to maintain high rates for investors.

Eveo societies such as Woolwich which along with Nationwide, charges a flat 12.875 per cent to all borrowers regardless of the amount lent, is having no difficulty at all in meeting demand for mortgages.

"We have no real waiting list at all and most of our managers are able to lend to non-members," says the Woolwich. If societies like the Woolwich are having difficulty finding borrowers, why is there any need at all to consider an increase in home loan rates?

The answer, in a nutshell comes from Mr. Brian Norris of Bristol & West: "Building societies want to keep the funds flowing in because they want to maintain their asset growth."

While it is true to say that societies were unable to give investors a fair deal during the inflationary 1970s, savers now have no cause for complaint. A return of 9.0 per cent, net of basic rate tax when inflation is

running at only 5 to 6 per cent, is generous; whereas the unfortunate borrower is paying about 13 per cent for his money which, even after tax relief, is still more than 9 per cent or a real rate of interest of around 4 per cent.

How serious is the threat of higher home loan rates? Halifax predicted a rise in home loan rates - only if seasonal demand for home loans picked up by more than they had budgeted for. Halifax's estimates of demand are based on last year's figures, which were themselves 30 per cent up on the previous year.

There is evidence to suggest that last year's boom will not be repeated this year. Those people who urgently needed to move have now done so, and higher home loan rates is likely to make the hesitant wait and see before taking the plunge.

Some societies have been rattled in recent days because of a slowdown in cash coming in as investors queued at post offices to buy their quota of the new 30th issue National Savings Certificates.

At today's mortgage rates, however, many societies will continue to experience difficulty in finding borrowers. If your society starts advertising home loans, perhaps you ought to ask why it does not simply cut the rate to the beleaguered borrowers, many of whom are first-time buyers who have been priced right out of the market. Without new homebuyers coming in at the bottom, the whole housing market stagnates.

Lorna Bourke

INLAND REVENUE CLAMPDOWN

Computer aids blitz on PAYE tax perks

Has your tax inspector suddenly slapped in an unexpected assessment? Tom Ryan explains that it is all part of a get tough campaign by the Inland Revenue.

assiduous in its search for new revenue sources, ruled it to be taxable.

All this follows on from the edict issued a few months ago which warned that Christmas party binges were out of order. The expenditure incurred per head must be modest - anything up to £30 was considered as reasonable.

In practice, of course, it is quite difficult to clock up more than £30 per head unless you go completely overboard and so what happened was that everybody still went on with their fortnight binge before Christmas. But at the very least it was a good talking point.

Joking apart, the suspicion lingers that the Inland Revenue has indeed launched a mini-offensive particularly against the self-employed, and that these isolated incidents are symptomatic of what is happening on a wider scale. Certainly the accountancy profession seems to be in no doubt that the bite is under way. "It's the direct result of computerization," says David Tallon of

chartered accountants, Deardon Farrow. "The Revenue has redeployed between 800 and 1,000 personnel to their PAYE audit teams and they are looking for things to do."

"In particular they are looking at company records and taking a close look at expenses to see if they fall within the PAYE net."

This new approach is apparently meeting with some success. "I doubt whether there is a single company that comes through a visit from the PAYE team without having to pay some additional tax," warns Jon Hills of accountants, Pannell Kerr Forster, who have just produced a free booklet on the taxation of benefits in kind.

As an example of what can happen, Jon Hills cites the recent experience of one service company which employs a few thousand personnel who each receive £2 a week in cash to pay for the cleaning of overalls they are required to wear for work.

Unfortunately, the Inland Revenue takes the view that this payment should come within PAYE and as a result have now raised an assessment for several hundred thousand pounds of back tax over the last six years.

What it all boils down to is that the Revenue is tightening up all round. It is not just that employees are having to pay more for their company cars, but now all kinds of round sum allowances, whether they are for entertainment or newspapers or cleaning expenses are being actively discouraged.

At this rate it will not be long before postmen's bicycles are taxed.

"Copies of *Benefits in Kind* can be obtained on request from Jon Hills, Pannell Kerr Forster, New Garden House, 78 Hatten Garden, London EC1 8JA.

Mortgages & Re-Mortgages available

13-25%

THOMPSON FISHER & Co. Ltd.

the mortgage shop

HALIFAX

THE WORLD'S NO.1 BUILDING SOCIETY

- 100% Mortgages
- 3.5 times income plus secondary income.
- FREE Quotations sent in 48 hours, inclusive of a solicitors conveyancing quote.

MORTGAGE LATELINE
(0733) 65778/9
(0733) 312561

Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Name
Address
Age(s) next birthday
Purchase price or property value
Amount of mortgage required

FREEPOST
304 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Tel: (0733) 312561 or 65778/9

THOMPSON FISHER & Co. Ltd.

the mortgage shop

44 and Self-Employed? Here's how you could have a pension at 65, of £61,119 every year for life. For £1,200p.a. net.

(Your first year's pension alone, would then be more than twice the sum of your total contributions)

That's how attractive a Personal Pension from Friends' Provident could be.

The example we give is for a man, 45 next birthday, paying tax at a rate of 60%. (See the table on the right). In just the first year of retirement you could receive a Personal Pension more than twice the size of your total net contributions, paid over the life of the policy.

But the advantages are just as compelling at whatever age you join. And whatever your tax rate.

What's more your benefits accrue free of income tax or capital gains tax.

And when you retire your personal pension will be taxable as income in the normal way.

How good your Friends' Provident Personal Pension could be.

The examples given in the table assume current annuity and bonus rates are maintained throughout. However, for many years, Friends' Provident have consistently declared a high rate of bonus. And though future bonuses do depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed, we have earned a reputation as offering one of the best performing ranges of 'with-profit' policies.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible for the benefits of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension if you are self-employed, or a partner in a business or profession, or if you earn any part of your income from UK employment which does not provide a company pension scheme.

Payment plans to suit you.

With Friends' Provident, you don't have to commit yourself to a fixed payment every month, or even every year.

You can undertake a regular payment programme. Or if your income is liable to fluctuation, you can make use of Friends' Provident Single Payment Bonds.

With Friends' Provident, in fact, you have almost total flexibility.

Start today, and you could enjoy 6 years' backdated tax relief.

You can also catch up on unused tax-relief for the previous 6 years.

So even if you take out a new Friends' Provident Personal Pension Policy today, you can claim unused tax relief right back to 1978/79.

Tax relief at the highest rate you pay.

You are allowed at present by the Inland Revenue to treat 'approved payments' for a personal pension as an expense.

Therefore you can qualify for tax relief at your highest rate of tax.

So, if your highest rate is 40%, or even 60% -

Man Aged Next Birthday	Tax Rate %	Annual Net Cost to you after tax-relief	Estimated Gross Pension every year from 65
35	30	£700	£72,320
35	40	£600	£72,320
35	30	£1,050	£108,850
35	40	£900	£108,850
45	40	£1,500	£50,900
45	60	£1,000	£50,900
45	40	£1,800	£61,119
45	60	£1,200	£61,119
55	40	£3,000	£20,757
55	60	£2,000	£20,757
55	40	£3,600	£24,919
55	60	£2,400	£24,919

All figures suppose current immediate annuity rates at 7/2/85 apply at the time, and that current bonus rates, including Final Bonuses, are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits. Therefore future bonus amounts cannot be guaranteed.

that's how much tax relief you receive on your contributions.

What are 'approved payments' qualifying for tax relief?

Tax relief is allowed on up to 17½% of net relevant earnings.

These are defined as all your earned income from non-pensionable employment, less expenses connected with running your business, including stock relief and capital allowances.

If you were born before 1934, however, you can make larger contributions than 17½% with full tax relief, as below.

1916 - 1933 20% 1914 - 1915 21%

1912 - 1913 24% 1910 - 1911 26½%

Friends' Provident Bonuses. Annual and Final.

Unlike a unit-trust-linked pension scheme, a Friends' Provident Personal Pension gives you annual bonuses, which are added to your existing benefits.

These bonuses are your share of the profits we have made by investing on behalf of our policy-holders.

Once added, these bonuses are guaranteed and cannot be reduced.

And once distributed, your bonuses cannot be diluted by the short-term fluctuations of the stock market or any other form of investment.

Besides an Annual Bonus, we currently pay an additional Final Bonus when you retire.

Currently, the rate of Final Bonus is at the rate of a further 80% of Annual Bonuses attributable to you at your pension date.

When can you decide to take your pension?

You can choose to draw your Friends' Provident Personal Pension at any time between 60 and 75, depending on your personal circumstances. Naturally, the later you retire, the larger the guaranteed benefits.

You can leave the decision to retire until the last moment.

There's no need to decide now.

Four ways you can receive your Friends' Provident Pension.

You can't know what the best pension arrangement for you will be at the time you retire.

So Friends' Provident provide four alternative ways from which you can choose at the time you reach retirement.

1. You can take all your benefits as a pension, paid for the rest of your life. The pension can be paid annually or monthly. The choice is yours.

2. You can take a reduced pension, plus a tax-free cash sum.

3. You can choose to take a pension that is guaranteed for up to 10 years, even if you should die earlier.

4. You can choose to have a reduced pension during your lifetime, plus a pension to your spouse for the remainder of his or her life.

Friends' Provident's 'Open Market' Option.

The benefits we quote are based on rates which provide a guaranteed annual pension (plus additional pension from bonuses).

However, if a better pension rate is available elsewhere, you can instruct us to transfer the total cash sum you have built up to any other Approved Life Office.

So that you can then get the best return the market offers at that time.

Friends' Provident. Profits into Bonuses.

Friends' Provident are a Mutual Life Office. We therefore have no share-holders.

All our profits are held for the benefit of our 'with-profit' policyholders, and are distributed to them as bonuses.

Bonuses are added to the value of your policy on the 31st December each year.

They are added to your pension entitlement as a percentage, based on both your payments and your previous bonuses.

Why you should act before the Budget.

You will see that the benefits of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension are substantial.

We cannot be certain that the forthcoming budget may not materially reduce the very attractive tax benefits currently available.

So, to make sure you enjoy them, fill in the coupon below right away.

Freepost - no stamp required

To: Friends' Provident, Freepost, Marketing Dept., (DM), Friends' Provident Life Office, Dorking Surrey RH4 1BR.

I am interested in the security of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension. Please supply me with full details.

My name is (Mr, Mrs, Miss) (Delete as appropriate)

My address is

Postcode

My date of birth is

I am interested in benefitting from previous years unused tax relief ☐ (Please tick, if applicable)

My Insurance Adviser is (if any)

JPI



Friends' Provident
PROVIDING SECURITY SINCE 1832

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS BASED ON FRIENDS' PROVIDENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT LEGISLATION AND INLAND REVENUE PRACTICE. IT IS SUBJECT TO THE FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE FRIENDS' PROVIDENT PERSONAL PENSION POLICY.

WHY SPECULATE TO ACCUMULATE?

If you've ever had to wade through reams of facts and figures, or been blinded with science by fast-talking investment "consultants", you'll find our approach refreshingly down to earth.

At Buckmaster & Moore - a progressive firm of stockbrokers with over 80 years' experience in the complex field of money management - we believe that information should be readily accessible and easily understood.

Proof lies in our brochure. Written in English, not jargon, it clearly and concisely deals with all aspects of our service to Private Clients. No matter what your priority - be it tax reduction, capital appreciation or simply security - we can handle it rapidly, efficiently and courteously.

If you have minutes to invest, you need facts. For your free copy of the brochure, just complete and return the coupon.

Buckmaster & Moore To Erik Duckworth, Buckmaster & Moore, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2JY

Please send me details of your service.
Name
Address
Tel. (Home) (Office)
Ym/16/82

Business Expansion Scheme

ST. JAMES ESTATES PLC

Incorporated to develop prime residential property in London.

Offer for Subscription
of up to:

10,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 60p per share payable in full on application on or before March 15th, 1985.

Minimum subscription 1,000 shares sponsored by:

UTC Securities Management Limited.

Licensed dealer in securities

55 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DB

Telephone: 01-499 0223

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to subscribe for shares.

Please send me a copy of the prospectus.

Name
Telephone No.
Address

T1/6/2

FAMILY MONEY

PROPERTY MARKET

Choice widens for homesellers as solicitors open property shops

Estate agents no longer have an effective monopoly of house selling services and homeowners now have a range of options - at varying price levels - for disposing of a property.

Competition should mean a cheaper service for homesellers. The time was when you had little choice in the way you sold a house. You would give the details of your property to your local estate agent in the hope that he would sell it for you as fast as possible and for the best price. Now, however, there are an ever increasing number of ways in which to sell a house.

The latest profession to step into the market are solicitors who have just been given the chance to set up "property shops" in competition with estate agents.

This move may have been a sop to compensate them for the loss of the monopoly on conveyancing, but it is also part of a trend towards opening up the buying, selling and financing of the residential property market.

The Law Society has given permission for more than 1,000 firms of solicitors to set up property shops within their own practices or through a separate practice formed for the purpose. The solicitor can advertise properties for sale in a window display, much in the same way that an estate agent can, but they must not call themselves estate agents.

As yet this is a new venture in the world of marketing homes and it remains to be seen what solicitors will charge for this service. They will be in direct competition with estate agents, all of whom charge much the same fees. The possibility exists for undercutting on price or for there to be a "gentleman's agreement" not to step out of line. So far there is no indication which way the pendulum will swing.

Estate agents' charges may vary and there is now more scope for negotiation than in the past. But on the whole there is little difference in the commission charged by one firm compared with another. The quality and level of service offered may vary, but the



Sellers' market: estate agents face stiff competition

amount of money involved does not. As a guideline, most estate agents say they charge 2.25 to 2.5 per cent of the selling price of a house if they are one of several agents given the instruction to dispose of the property.

If it is appointed as sole agent, the charge drops to about 2 per cent of the selling price. It is wise to check what is included in this fee. Most agents now include the price of advertising in the local newspaper, in their own property lists, and often in their own property newspapers.

Mann & Co, the Woking-based estate agent with 120 offices spread across the south of the country, (and about 14 branches ranging from Yorkshire to the South-east of the country, charges the same fee as Mann & Co, for selling a house and says it rarely offers the chance to negotiate.

There has to be a special case for it to do so. Once again advertising is included in the fee and particulars of the property appear in monthly

negotiate. In this case the fees charged are likely to be lower than the normal commission rate.

But it is only homes that are much in demand in the market which are likely to fall into this category.

Mann & Co's fee includes advertising in the local newspaper, putting the property on to its weekly and monthly lists and in its own newspaper.

It also has the ability to circularize all its branches with details of homes that come into a local office so there is a spread of potential buyers seeing what is available across a large part of the country.

Jackson, Stopp & Staff with 14 branches ranging from Yorkshire to the South-east of the country, charges the same fee as Mann & Co, for selling a house and says it rarely offers the chance to negotiate.

There has to be a special case for it to do so. Once again advertising is included in the fee and particulars of the property appear in monthly

The advent of the computer has meant that firms have

sprung up offering considerably lower charges for selling property than the traditional High Street estate agent. The crucial element of such services is the extent of the computer lists which attempt to match buyers and sellers within the market-place.

HomeLine, a computer-based agency in London, has been in operation for five years and now claims to have one fifth of London and the Home Counties' housebuyers on its computer print-out. It is hard to gauge how many people this involves and the firm itself could not give numbers.

But there is no denying that it is considerably cheaper than using an estate agent. HomeLine charges £2 per £1,000 of the selling price of a house, to go on to its list. In addition there is VAT to pay. There is an upper limit to the fee charged. The ceiling is £112.70 on a £98,000 house. For this the vendor remains on HomeLine's files until the property is sold.

A good description of the house is sent to potential buyers who are sorted into categories as to where they want to buy.

what price and type of property they want and the time which they need to find a new home.

A quick way of selling a house is to auction it, but it is a method which is little known to most people. It is important to use a well established company of auctioneers for this task - one which will advise on a realistic reserve price.

Mr Clive Carpenter, who is in charge of the auction department of Allsop & Co, urges sellers not to be too greedy and try to pinch the reserve price too high. If a sensible price is being asked, an auction will give a quick sale in today's market.

He deals in properties ranging from £5,000 to £1 million in price. Allsop & Co's charges are agreed by negotiation. There are no set scales, but a rough guide would be 2 per cent of the selling price. It is wise to bargain on fees.

Anyone selling by auction will have to contribute to getting their property into the auctioneer's catalogue. Allsop & Co charges £700 with VAT extra, for a colour photograph to be included in one of its catalogues which has a circulation of 7,000 potential buyers.

The advantage of selling at auction is that once the hammer has fallen the deal is struck and there are none of the nail-biting problems associated with the usual form of selling in England where nothing is legally tied-up until contracts have been exchanged.

If none of these methods of selling a house appeals, there is always the option of doing it yourself. The costs involved then are personal time and the extent to which the property is advertised in the local or national press. The bills can soon add up for advertising and there is no guarantee of any response. On top of that payment has to be made immediately - not once the house has been sold. But with luck, and good timing, a well-worded advertisement and carefully set-out details presented to prospective buyers, can be a successful and cheap way to sell a home.

Judith Huntley

TAX RELIEF

Help for novices to BES market

Business Expansion Schemes and the generous tax relief attached to them, have caught the investing public's imagination. But precisely how they work, who qualifies for tax relief and what the conditions are, can be confusing for the newcomer to this field.

There are three specialists on BES schemes along with a number of accountancy firms. Mr John Harrison of Taxatment and Tax Planning Services, produces a constantly updated service listing the new BES funds as they come on to the market with details of charges, structure, investment objectives, management and the like, as well as minimum investment and closing date for application. His service also includes basic information on what BES funds are and the conditions for qualifying for tax relief.

The weakness of his service is that it covers only BES funds (those which raise a capital sum to invest in a range of new and existing companies). He does not include the BES companies - arguably the more attractive proposition for many investors.

If you want this sort of coverage, with guidelines and advice on investment, then Richards Longstaff's BES Club may be the answer. Run by Mr John Greener, it has produced 14 newsletters to date and has covered most of the new BES funds and companies - leaving only those which Richard Longstaff does not consider attractive propositions.

It costs £100 to join the Club but there are no subsequent charges. Mr Greener is hoping to extend the idea soon to a Super BES Club where members would pool their funds and buy up 5 per cent of those BES funds they believe are worthwhile.

This would have two advantages - tax relief would be available on borrowings to finance the acquisition of shares in the BES funds and as a 5 per cent (or more) shareholder, members of the club would stand a good chance of getting a director onto the board of the BES fund or company to represent their interests. This would be a big improvement.

Audley Tax and Financial Services produces a basic guide to Business Expansion Schemes which is as good as any if you want simple information on how these schemes work, what types of business qualify, and the like.

Details of all three services are available from Mr John Harrison, Investment and Tax Planning Services, 7 Regal Lane, London, NW1 7TH. Tel: 01-267-0133. *Online Guide to BES Funds*, EA, including updates, Mr John Greener, Richards Longstaff, 6 King Street, Bristol, BS1 4EQ. Tel: 0272-294313. (Richards Longstaff BES Club, £100 joining fee) Audley Tax and Financial Services, 16 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 5AE. Tel: 01-629-7517. *The Business Expansion Scheme - and Investment and Taxation Report*, price £3.50.



A special opportunity to invest in one of the top growth trusts...

Aiming mainly for capital growth (rather than income) and from a portfolio of equities invested largely in the UK, GRE's Growth Equity Trust has proved to be a star performer. From its inception to 1st February 1985 its offer price rose by 57.5%. (The FT All-Share Index only rose by 35.4% over the same period.)

In fact, in 1984, out of over 650 trusts covering every kind of investment, ours was in the top ten. Perhaps that is less surprising when you consider the strengths of our investment team.

... from the top unit trust group (according to 'The Observer')

You don't need to take our word for it, either. Their performance over the whole spread of our unit trusts won our investment experts the coveted "Observer Unit Trust Managers of the Year" award. And their ability was endorsed by the specialist magazine "What Investment," which placed them first for performance in one of their three categories.

It's still not too late to profit.

The UK share market has performed well over the last couple of years and we think it continues to offer extremely attractive growth prospects. Despite the recent rise in interest rates, the outlook for corporate profits and dividends still looks good. Productivity is increasing, exports are being helped by the falling pound, and well-managed companies are turning in some excellent results.

A special bonus if you apply now.

The minimum investment in the trust is only 250 units and, as a special short-term offer, we're allocating one free unit with every 100 units that you purchase by 25th February.

At the offer price of 155.9p on 14th February 1984 the estimated current gross yield was 2.10% p.a.

Remember that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

General Information
Applications will be acknowledged on day of receipt. Certificates will follow within 42 days.
Remuneration will be paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request.
Investment: The Managers are empowered to invest in ordinary shares and convertible stock with up to 90% of the fund in Overseas Markets and up to 25% of the fund in the UK Unlisted Securities Market and Unquoted Securities (the latter not to exceed 5% of the fund's income, less income tax, is distributed by the Trust on 30th June and 31st December each year. Benefits on the progress of the Trust are included with each tax voucher distribution.
Management charges as permitted by the Trust Deed are a maximum initial charge of 5% and a maximum annual charge of 1% (plus VAT). In order to keep charges as low as possible, the annual service charge, based on the value of the Trust and deducted from its income is 1/4% (plus VAT).
Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press.
Repurchases: Units can be cashed at any time at the bid price, ruling on receipt of instructions to sell. Payment will normally be made immediately upon receipt of the repurchased certificates.
The Trust is a Midland Bank Trust Company Limited.
The Managers are Guardian Royal Exchange Unit Managers Limited, 45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LX. It is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

To Guardian Royal Exchange Unit Managers Limited,
45 Beech Street, London EC2P 2LX.
Telephone: 01-638 2020.
Reg No. 915719

I/We enclose my/our cheque for £ for investment in GRE Growth Equity Trust at the current offer price upon the terms of the Trust Deed (maximum initial investment 250 units).

I/We hereby instruct you to register the holding as set out below.

I/We authorise the reimbursement of my/our income in the purchase of further units. PLEASE TICK IF REQUIRED

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Surname: (Please state Mr/Ms/Mr/Ms)

For names in full:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature: (In the case of joint holders all must sign)

Date:

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. T198

Guardian Royal Exchange

INVESTMENT

Income from savings certificates

The curtain went up on Wednesday on the 30th issue of National Savings Certificates. The new issue may not acquire the superstar rating of the now legendary 28th, but it should turn out to be a respectable performer.

Once again, certificates are available in units of £25, up to a total of £5,000 per person. Each unit grows in value to £38.21 over five years, giving a compound annual interest rate of 8.85 per cent.

This return is free of all UK income tax and capital gains tax, and grosses up to 22.13 per cent to those paying income tax at the top rate of 60 per cent.

Within the last 12 months there have been five fixed-re-

turn issues of savings certificates on sale, with compound yields extending from 7.25 per cent to 9 per cent. The return on the 30th is thus near the top end of that range.

The tables show two useful plans by which a tax-free annual income can be drawn from the

new issue. They involve the systematic encashment of a given number of units on each anniversary of the purchase date.

Plan A gives an ascending scale of returns and, as to previous similar exercises, provides a slightly higher overall yield than Plan B, where the annual income is more or less evenly distributed.

Schemes can also be devised that will exhaust the capital at the end of five years, though these give considerably lower yields. The plans shown in the tables give an average annual yield on a simple interest basis of around 8.7 per cent.

One of the merits of these encashment schemes is that they are flexible. Annual en-

Annual income schemes for 30th issue National Savings Certificates, leaving capital intact at the end of five years

	Plan A No of £25 units encashed	Encashment value	Plan B No of £25 units encashed	Encashment value
At end of				
1st year	41	373.66	18	167.04
2nd year	41	401.66	18	180.35
3rd year	41	436.38	18	196.36
4th year	41	480.06	18	216.77
5th year	41	496.73	18	220.37
	69	2,188.49	69	2,159.85

In each case, a total of 69 units is encashed, leaving 131 units each worth £36.21 - a total of £5,005.51. Certificates are available in various denominations up to a total of 200 units per person.

cashments can be increased, reduced, or stopped altogether, according to the needs or wishes of the holder.

As the returns on National Savings Certificates are tax-free, the plans can be especially useful for elderly investors who want to maximize their income without going beyond the point where the age allowance for

income tax purposes starts to be phased out.

It should be remembered, however, that the best return is only achieved if the certificates are held for the full period of five years. A £5,000 investment in the 30th issue would grow to £7,642 at the end of the five-year term - at total tax-free gain of 52.8 per cent.

INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR 1984/5

CONNOISSEUR WINES PLC

Independent Wine Shipper and Wholesaler

- ★ Established Business
- ★ Trading Profitably
- ★ Has BES Certificate Now
- ★ Services to Shareholders
- ★ Over-The-Counter Market
- ★ Minimum subscription already achieved

Offer for Subscription

Under the Terms of the Business Expansion Scheme sponsored by

The Guidehouse Group Plc

of

700,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 60p per share payable in full on application.

The subscription lists will be closed when the Offer is fully subscribed or at midnight on 3rd March 1985, unless extended prior to that date. The Group intends to expand its existing business, to open new warehouse premises for retailing to the public and to increase its trading stock of claret and other fine wines. BES certificates have been issued to investors pursuant to an earlier offer and investors will not therefore have to wait until the Company has traded for 4 months before obtaining their relief.

To: The Guidehouse Group Plc
Vestry House
Greyfriars Passage
Newgate Street
London EC1 7BA

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus for Connoisseur Wines Plc.

Name

Address



BUS PASS
WINE

How far will you get on a state pension?

If you've ever thought of retirement as an opportunity for travel, think again.

After all, you're not a member of your employer's pension scheme you could end up relying on the state pension.

But if you act now, a Hill Samuel Personal Pension Account will broaden your horizons.

Our plans make the maximum use of tax relief and they all offer the sort of security that makes retirement more of an adventure.

Talk to Hill Samuel and make worries about your future a thing of the past.

Filling in the coupon will put you under no obligation. But the sooner you act, the more we can offer.

To: Hill Samuel Investment Services Limited, NLA Tower, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR9 6BP. Tel: 01-686 4355.
I would like to talk to Hill Samuel about a Personal Pension Account.
Name T16298T
Address

HILL SAMUEL
INVESTMENT SERVICES

Up to 2.5% commission will be paid to professional intermediaries through whom successful applications are submitted and professional intermediaries introducing subscribers for at least 25,000 Ordinary Shares will be entitled to an option to subscribe at the Offer Price for 1 Ordinary Share for every 20 Ordinary Shares allotted to such subscribers.

مكتبة الأصول

FAMILY MONEY

MOTOR INSURANCE

TSB lures drivers with all-in cover

The TSB Savings Bank has jumped off and passed across the road, leaving the regular Royal Insurance policy in its wake.

No one who has made a policy on its cost as it does not accept the common notion that previous three years need apply. The TSB is not selling its new policy on price alone.

The TSB is not selling its new policy on price alone. It is possible that the regular Royal policy might even be cheaper, the TSB says, at least likely to claim. The policy though on average the safe which is on offer is fully driver plan will result in a comprehensive with a £50 discount of up to 10 per cent.

On the scheme, any driver who suffers a more than one accident or is banished from the drink/driving offence will be.

Once on the scheme, any driver who suffers a more than one accident or is banished from the drink/driving offence will be.

Fully comprehensive insurance with a £50 excess - maximum no claims bonus in force

Surveyor, aged 35 and his wife, Peterborough, New Vauxhall Cavalier 1800 GL.

Quoted	Annual premium
1 Phoenix Century	79.00
2 GRE	83.00
3 Zurich	83.00
4 National Employers Mutual	84.62
5 Dominion	86.00
TSB	
1 (Monthly payments)	106.80
The Premier	
1 Standard	95.77
2 Standard+NCB protection	101.60
3 Top Drivers Policy	100.18
4 (Monthly payments)	105.87
AA	
1 GRE	85.50
2 with NCB protection	96.50
Bank of Scotland	
1	120.12

Bachelor, aged 50, Colchester, Reg Allegro 1300

1	Annual premium
1 Lombard Continental	44.00
2 Bradford Pennine	46.00 (£35 excess)
3 United Standard (I)	47.00
4 Westgates	47.10
5 United Standard (II)	52.00
1 (Monthly payments)	69.12
1 Standard	77.87
2 Standard+NCB protection	82.61
3 Top Drivers Policy	81.44
4 (Monthly payments)	86.00
1 Crusader	54.50
2 with NCB protection	62.34
1	73.92

The policy leaves little choice - it is only comprehensive with a £50 excess.

The TSB will not be confining the policy to its six million customers, although it has estimated that about half the 1.5 million TSB customers with cars would be eligible for the policy. It hopes to sign up 40,000 drivers in the next eight months.

One selling point is that rates are quoted as monthly premiums rather than annual ones which look so weighty. But whereas many insurance companies allow customers to pay by instalments for a charge the TSB offers no discounts to customers who offer a year's premiums in one lump.

The TSB policy follows the introduction by the Bank of Scotland of a similar policy underwritten by Royal for drivers with a three years no-claims bonus. This policy allows drivers to add a second car to the cover without building up a no-claims discount from scratch and allows any other driver to drive the car.

The TSB has gone for a complete package - including a 15 per cent discount on Swan National car hire (a subsidiary company) and it promises instant quotations and instant



A driver's full discount rate with the TSB is not jeopardized by one or two accidents

cover from its 1,642 branches.

It hopes to expand the motor insurance market by persuading motorists to trade up from third party to comprehensive cover.

The policy is written in plain English like the TSB home contents policy which is insured through Provincial. Motorists

will have the satisfaction of knowing that they can confront their local TSB manager in the high street if anything goes awry with a claim. This must be a strong motivation for the TSB to ensure that things run smoothly.

As the flotation of the TSB as

a public company nears, the group is taking on the form of a complete financial supermarket catering for all its customers' financial needs. It cannot afford to slip up on this new move.

Nivien Goldsmith

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

10% p.a. net for 2, 3 or 4 years

LAMBERT & MASON
17/21 Leicester Street, Milton Workway, Leics LE13 0PP
Telephone: (0534) 619611



CHELSEA
BUILDING SOCIETY

9.50%
NET PA.

Capital Shares

• Immediate penalty free withdrawals.
• Plus the option of a cheque book.
• Balances of £10,000 or more earn 9.50% net p.a. (13.57% gross p.a.).
• Below this level balances earn 9.35% net p.a. (13.36% gross p.a.) for sums up to £9,999, and 9.00% net p.a. (12.86% gross p.a.) for sums up to £2,499.
• Minimum investment £1,000.

13.57%
GROSS PA.

9.75%
NET PA.

Lion Shares
Special Issue

• Immediate withdrawal with only 90 days loss of interest.
• No penalty withdrawal upon giving 3 months' notice.
• No fixed term.
• Minimum investment £500.

13.93%
GROSS PA.

*Where tax is paid at basic rate. †Subject to terms in account booklet. Interest paid annually. Above rates variable.

Please send me full details of Capital Shares ☐ Tick as appropriate.
Lion Shares (Special Issue) ☐ Tick as appropriate.
To: Chelsea Building Society, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 1BR.

Name _____
Address _____
Member of the Building Societies Association Investors' Protection Scheme. Assets exceed £470 million. Trustee Status.

**Paying only £162.40
for a £171.20 mortgage has one
obvious advantage.**



When you're starting out on your mortgage you need all the help you can get.

That's why our mortgages come with a built in advantage: lower repayments in the early years of the loan.

At most other building societies you'd have to pay more as the table below shows.

There are other advantages to having one of our mortgages.

Such as: mortgages over £30,000 still being included in MIRAS. That means you get your basic rate tax relief included in your repayment straight away.

We make adjustments to your repayments annually, so you don't have to keep changing standing orders when interest rates change.

We've also got some very comprehensive insurance schemes, all designed to make having a mortgage easier. And all included in the same single monthly repayment.

Then, when you want to add to your loan for home improvements, we can send you a cheque with the minimum fuss and formality.

So when you're ready to buy, you're more likely to find a home you can afford when you

come to National & Provincial.

If you'd like to know more about a National & Provincial mortgage, fill in the coupon or call in at your local National & Provincial office.

*Remember interest rates are subject to variation.

I'd like to receive more information about a National & Provincial Mortgage.

☐ I am a first-time buyer. Please tick if appropriate.
Please send me a copy of 'Your key to successful house buying'.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

(I am over 18 years of age)

SIGNATURE _____

Post to: Derek Booth,
National & Provincial Building Society,
FREEPOST, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 1BR.

Amount of Mortgage	Interest Rate*	Net first year monthly repayments capital & interest 25 year term	
		(National & Provincial)	(Most other societies)
£15,000	13.00%	£121.80	£128.40
£20,000	13.00%	£162.40	£171.20
£25,000	13.00%	£203.00	£214.00

National & Provincial
Everyone's local building society

1985?

Find out Britannia's latest assessment of the American market and where the investment opportunities lie.

RING BRITANNIA VIEWPOINT AND LISTEN.

01-675 6666

REGULAR CALLERS PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER

Britannia Group of Unit Trusts, 29 Finsbury Circus, London EC2.

Fraser House
Commercial Developments plc
offer for subscription made under
THE BUSINESS
EXPANSION SCHEME
of up to 5,950,000 Ordinary Shares
of 25p each at 50p per share.

Investment in the company provides:-

- Participation in a commercial property development company
- The market access and combined abilities of a Master Builder, Architect, Surveyor, Accountant, Solicitor, plus an established Corporate Finance team.
- Tax relief for individual investments qualifying under the Business Expansion Scheme.

This advertisement is not an invitation to invest. For copies of the Prospectus and application form, please complete the following and return to:-

Robert Fraser & Partners Ltd, Fraser House, 29 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FA. Or telephone 01-200 0200 (24 hrs - 7 days).

Please send a copy of the Fraser House Commercial Developments plc Prospectus to:

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

and a further copy to my accountant/solicitor/adviser

Name _____
Firm _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

ROBERT FRASER & PARTNERS LTD.

2% DISCOUNT
ON UNIT TRUSTS

WE OFFER THE BEST DEALS
ON THE MARKET PLUS
EXPERT INVESTMENT ADVICE
Telephone Your Order
NOW

OVER £1 MILLION PER
MONTH BEING INVESTED
FROM SATISFIED CLIENTS

CHELSEA FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.
274 Fulham Road, Chelsea, London SW10 9EW. 01-351 6022

THE CHELSEA
GROWTH PORTFOLIO
UP 34%

IN 6 MONTHS
Minimum investment £5,000
Can You afford to miss this
exciting investment opportunity
Telephone or write
for details
NOW

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks	Fund	MONEY FUNDS	Telephone
Current account - no interest paid.	Artisan Home	Pat APR	
Deposit accounts - seven days	monthly inc.	13.50 14.37	01 638 8070
notice required for withdrawals.	B of Scotland	13.20 14.03	01 628 8080
Barclays 11% per cent. Lloyds 11%	Britannia call	13.25 14.05	01 588 2777
per cent. NatWest 11.00 per cent.	Openheimer Money		
Midland 11.0 per cent. National	Management		
Girobank 11 per cent. Fixed term	Account	13.625 14.337	01 238 9362
deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month	S & P call	13.10 14.00	0706 88999
13.25 per cent. 3 months 12.25 per	Schroder Wagg	13.50 14.37	0705 827733
cent. 6 months 11.25 per cent.	22.50	13.75 14.66	0705 827733
over £10,000	Tullet & Riley call	13.77 14.34	01 238 9362
Rates quoted by National Westminster.	T & R 7 day	13.50 14.21	0272 732241
Other banks may differ.			

FAMILY MONEY

IMMEDIATE
WITHDRAWAL*
or three months'
notice with
NO loss of interest

Minimum balance £2000

9.85%
10.09%
14.41%

*Basic rate for paid

*Effective annual rate when compounded

*Where 'a' is paid at the basic rate.

Rates subject to change

BOLTON

BUILDING SOCIETY

235/237 BAKER STREET

LONDON NW1

TELEPHONE 01-638 0138

Members of the Building

Societies Association &

Investors Protection

Scheme Trustee Status

Established in 1954

Business Expansion Scheme

RAVRELIE 1985

CITY GATE

ESTATES PLC

A company formed to

refurbish and convert Central

London residential

properties.

OFFER

FOR SUBSCRIPTION

up to £2,500,000

Johnson Fry & Co Ltd

(licensed dealers in securities)

39 Dover Street

London W1X 3RB

01-499 5066

• Immediate property

development opportunity.

• Asset backed by Central

London residential property.

• Experienced management

team.

• In-house building

personnel.

Please telephone or send for

a copy of the prospectus.

Closing date 14 March 1985.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer

to subscribe for shares.

Investment Account - 12.25
per cent interest paid without
deduction of tax. One month's
notice of withdrawal. Maximum
investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond

Min. investment £2,000 - max.

£50,000. Interest - 12.75 (from 13th

March) per cent variable at six

weeks notice - paid monthly

without deduction of tax. Repay-

ment at 3 months notice. Penalties

in first year.

National Savings Certificates

25th issue. Return totally free of

income and capital gains tax.

equivalent to an annual interest

rate over the five-year term of 8 per

cent, maximum investment £5,000.

30th issue (from Feb 13) 8.85 per

cent.

Guaranteed Income Bonds

Return paid net of basic rate tax.

Higher rate taxpayers may have a

further liability on maturity.

1 to 4 yrs General Portfolio: 10%

1 yr Capital Life 8.5% 2 yrs Capital

Life 8.75% 3 yrs New Directions

9.1% (underwritten by Credit

Commerce) 4 yrs New Directions

9.25% (underwritten by Credit

Commerce) 5 yrs Pinnacle

Insurance 9.5 (£5,000+) 5 yr Property

Equity 9.5 5 yr New Directions

9.5%.

Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments.

Interest quoted gross (basic rate

tax deducted at source reclaimable

by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Leicester.

Minimum sum £500 10% per cent

2 yrs Bolton. Minimum sum £500

10 per cent 3 yr Lambeth. Minimum

£1,000 11% per cent. 4 yrs

Lambeth. Minimum £1,000 11% per

cent 5 yrs Lambeth. Minimum

£1,000 11% per cent 6 yrs Lambeth.

Minimum £1,000 11% per cent

7 yrs Lambeth. Minimum £1,000 9.

10 per cent 8 yrs Lambeth. Minimum

£1,500 11% per cent.

Further details available from

Chartered Institute of Public

Finance & Accountancy, Loans

Bureau (638 6361 between 10am

and 2.30pm) see also on Prestel no

24805.

Base

Lending

Rates

ABN Bank 14%

Adam & Company 14%

Barclays 14%

BCCL 14%

Chitank Savings 14%

Consolidated Crds 14%

Continental Trust 14%

C. Hoare & Co 14%

Lloyds Bank 14%

Midland Bank 14%

Nat Westminster 14%

TSB 14%

Williams & Glyn's 14%

Chitank SA 14%

* Mortgage Base Rate.

* 1 day deposits on sums of under

£10,000, 1% (10,000) up to £50,000,

1.2% (£50,000 and over), 1.5%.

MONTAGU

LAW TRUST MANAGERS LTD

21 Dering Lane, London EC2M 4TR

01-623 4273

Daily Dealing Prices

as at 15th February 1985

Gold & Prec Metals

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

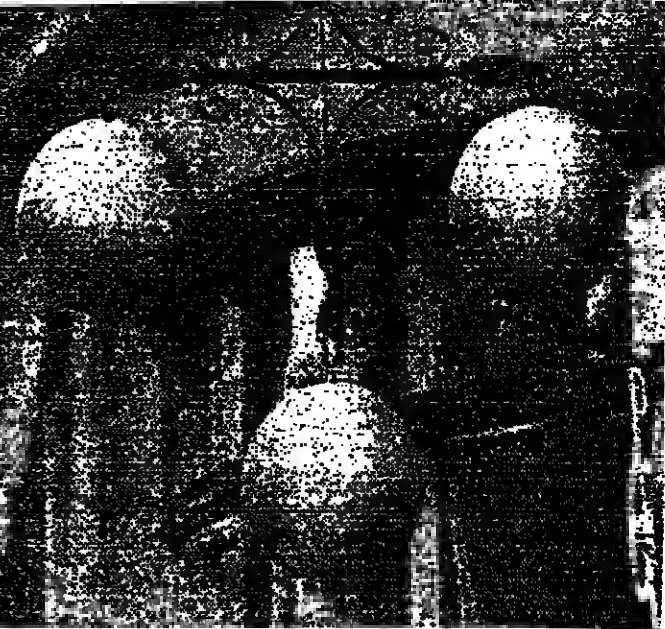
Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit

Plasma Unit



Three brass balls: crest of the moneylending Medici

PAWNBROKING

Easy credit with no
questions asked

'Up and down the City Road,
in and out the Eagle.
That's the way the money
goes.

Pop goes the Weasel.

Who needs pawnbrokers?

Sources of credit are so

numerous that the lending

business known by its sign of

three brass balls seems irrele-

vant today. But to get credit

you must not only pay but

usually provide information.

Pawnbrokers, who all but

disappeared during the affluent

1960s, are seeing something of a

revival in trade.

V A Barker, set up in the

City, not anticipating a 1929

Black Monday, but in response

to demand; by 1968, falling

trade had caused the pawn-

brokers' business to close. The

jewellery business and pawn-

brokers' sign, a City landmark

remained. It prompted cus-

tomers in the 1980s to inquire

about facilities, and they re-

opened in 1983.

Harvey and Thompson, long-

established jewellers and pawn-

brokers, went public in 1981,

with new image pawnbrokers'

shops and several London

locations from Golders Green

to Tooting.

Many people who own

jewellery and similar items of

small bulk and high value prefer

to pledge them for a few weeks

during a squeeze rather than ask

a bank manager for a loan.

Sometimes they pawn them

during holidays for ready cash,

and thereby get strongroom

security while they are away.

In poorer areas, jewellers'

shops feel the effect of lesser

demand and may be taken over

to be run as pawnbrokers by a

more flourishing group; North-

ern Goldsmiths have acquired

several shops in this way.

In the dirty 'Pop goes the

Weasel', the Weasel was a

mole-skin vest or waistcoat with

a top pocket for silver-encased

Swan (vestas) matches. When

times were hard, perhaps

because of too many visits to

the Eagle public house, the

weasel or the silver case was

'popped' into 'Uncle's' for

cash.

Uncle was not a term of

kinship but a centuries-old

word, corrupted from the Latin

uncus, for hook by the Italian

speaking Lombards. Articles of

clothing left as pledges were

hung on a hook. When it was

full, the clothes were removed

to a store room.

The hooks have gone: There

are better secondhand clothes

bargains at jumble sales, and

the expenses of running retail

shops do not allow space for

uneconomic store rooms.

Mr Harold Wilkins, president

of the National Pawnbrokers'

Association, says the jewellery

is now the main item used for

pledges. Local pawnbrokers,

however, have their own idea of

what is marketable; in the

North, good quality cameras

and radios are acceptable and

in Scotland, golf clubs can be

hauled in by those whose

headcups have gone high

enough.

Pawnbrokers must be licensed

(fee £80 for sole trader, £150

others, for 10 years) and are

subject to the Pawnbrokers Act

Bank of Scotland	
BANK OF SCOTLAND Account Details	
Account No	00428407
Balance	125.84
Today's items	125.43
Fund transfers pending	65.00
Keycard withdr pending	30.00
Interest accrued	1.12
Charges accrued	0.50
Overdraft limit	200.00
Cash available from Keycard	70.00

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

Bank of Scotland	
Make Bill Payments	
Mandate No	144
IS	3 of 5 Visa Card
Reference	425737302917
Account to be debited on	04th February 1985
Amount	£174.26
Bill paid by	06th February 1985
No changes after	30th January 1985
Key 1 To confirm this payment 2 To change this payment 3 To cancel this payment	

PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Bank of Scotland	
BANK OF SCOTLAND Inter-account transfers	
Details	
From	Current Account No 00428407
Grant	J A Pers Acc
Home Banking Centre	
To	Investment Account No 02037184
Grant	J A
Home Banking Centre	
Amount	£100.00
Key 1 To send 2 Not to send 3 Change Accounts 4 Change Amount 5 Change both	

INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS.

Bank of Scotland	
Standing Order Details	
Upland Electricity Monthly	30Jan85 30Nov85 32.40
British Gas Monthly	06Feb85 06Sep85 31.15
Midshires Council Monthly	01Feb85 01Mar85 57.81
General Life Ass Monthly	31Jan85 N.A. 22.45
United Auto Ins Quarterly	15Mar85 15Jun85 26.95
Key 7 Make amendments 8 Finish	

STANDING ORDER DETAILS.

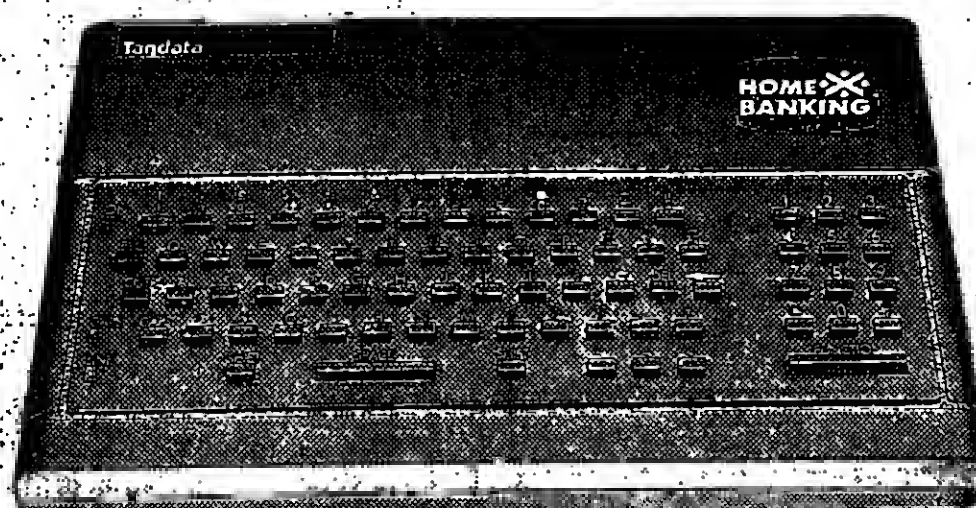
Bank of Scotland		Op	
A/C No 00428407		Statement	
Date	Details	Amount	Balance
11Jan85	398410	-45.00	226.97
11Jan85	P & Oil	8.75	235.72
12Jan85	398412	-27.42	208.30
13Jan85	Keycard 90375603	-100.00	108.30
14Jan85	Bank Giro Credit	47.52	155.82
14Jan85	398413	-29.98	125.84
Key 7 Enter items 8 Finish			

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

Bank of Scotland		Op
BANK OF SCOTLAND Cash Management		
148 High St Southamilton		
ACCOUNT: 00101A07 CURRENCY: STG		
Ledger position on first line		
Debitments expiring and cleared		
position on second line		
Date	Credit	Debit
14Jan1985	1,456	504
		1,733
		2,526
15Jan1985	-389	750
		2,094
		1,767
16Jan1985	0	0
		2,094
		1,767
17Jan1985	0	0
		2,094
		2,094
		327
Key 9 Finish		

CASH MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESSES.

New from Bank of Scotland. Home Banking throughout the UK.



Bank of Scotland is pleased to announce the latest in a long line of "firsts".

As the first bank in the UK to launch comprehensive home banking nationally, we have turned science fiction into fact. Now you can manage your money from the comfort of your own armchair.

It's banking at your fingertips.

With Bank of Scotland's Home Banking service, direct access to your accounts is - literally - at your fingertips.

No more queues, no more delays, no more confusion. You can move your money around, check any aspect of your accounts and pay your bills SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, ALMOST ROUND THE CLOCK.

You can operate a Current Account, a Budget Account, a Money Market Cheque Account or obtain up to the minute details of your personal loans.

In fact, most Bank services can now be carried out in YOUR own good time!

Monitor the ebb and flow of your Current Account.

Whenever you like - even on a Sunday evening - you can check your balance, see what transactions you have pending, any bank charges or interest accrued and details of standing orders. You can order a cheque book and statement, and see how much cash you can obtain at any given moment. And that's just for starters.

Pay bills just by lifting a finger.

Forget about queuing or posting cheques. Now you can pay key bills via Home Banking. Simply tell us how much you want to pay and when - and we'll do the rest.

Move your money where the interest is.

Our Home & Office Banking Investment Account - specially developed for Home Banking - makes this easy.

Whenever you have spare cash in your Current Account, you can transfer it into our new Investment Account simply by entering the details on your screen. Your money will immediately start to earn interest.

When you need to use it, even if only a few days later, you can transfer it back to your Current Account just as easily. In this way you can make your money work for you, and still have it the moment you need it.

The office user can bank on it too.

With this service, Office Banking becomes a reality for many businesses.

They will find the service immensely time-saving and cost effective in keeping track of cashflow and verifying transactions through their bank accounts, as well as earning really useful interest on spare funds.

All these facilities are available now to businesses for payments which can be authorised by a single signature and developments currently in hand will provide for multiple authorisation in the future.

Open up the world of Prestel.*

Bank of Scotland's Home Banking is brought to you through Prestel, the extensive Viewdata system from British Telecom. That means you also have access to thousands of Prestel pages, such as message services including Telex, teleshopping, telebooking, news, weather reports and much more.

A whole new world of communications and information is suddenly there for you to use in your own home.

Simple to use yet completely secure.

Home Banking is so easy to operate a child could do it. However, our security precautions are such that no child (or adult!) can - unless you choose to let them, of course.

On Prestel Financial Services.

To use the system you must first enter your Prestel security codes followed by your Bank of Scotland codes which only you will know. These can be changed by you at anytime.

Discover what Home Banking can mean to you.

This is your opportunity to be one of the first to benefit from the technology of the future. And remember, you can use it anywhere in the UK.

There's a bonus if you decide Home Banking is for you. You can take advantage of our special introductory offer. Initial subscribers will be able to buy - at a very special price - our Prestel adaptor, which links your TV and telephone into the system.

All the details of this offer - and indeed of every aspect of Home Banking from Bank of Scotland - are in our comprehensive information pack.

FREEPOST the coupon and find out how tomorrow's money management can be at your fingertips today!



*Prestel is a registered trade mark of British Telecommunications plc.

Post to: Home Banking Centre, Bank of Scotland, FREEPOST, Edinburgh, EH1 0AA.

I would like to know all about Home Banking from Bank of Scotland. Please send me your information pack.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE



BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

17/16/2

[illegible]

RUGBY UNION

Scotland lose Baird as France seek to make up for disappointments

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It may not be meteorologically correct just now to say it never rains but it pours, but that is what Scotland must surely be feeling as they prepare for their five nations championship encounter with France at the Parc des Princes in Paris this afternoon. At no stage this season have they been able to field the team they would have wished, and it was of a piece with their current lack that yesterday they lost Baird, the British Lions wing.

Baird injured a knee during the game with Ireland but came through a fitness test on Thursday, when the other wing, Tukalo, was forced to withdraw. However, reaction set in yesterday and Baird, too, was forced to drop out, to be replaced by the 26-year-old Gosforth schoolmaster, Pollock, for his eighth cap.

Pollock, who joined the Scottish replacements only after Tukalo's withdrawal, lost his lucky mascot status when he played in the team beaten by Romania last May. Previously he had never been on a losing Scottish side. His place as a replacement goes to Baird's Kelso colleague, Tail, who played as a centre in the 8 internationals against Ireland and France this season.

Since it is 16 years that Scotland last won in Paris (which means they have yet to win at today's stadium), since France will be seeking to erase the disappointment of Twickenham a fortnight ago and since the Scots themselves are in somewhat dishevelled shape, it will be surprising indeed if the French do not win handsomely. I doubt whether players of

the known ability of Gallien and Lescarboura will perform so differently again. Both half-backs received a public rebuke from Jacques Fouroux, the coach, after the draw with England, and it may be that if Lescarboura is relieved of the duty of calling the moves for the backs - performed last year by Codorniu, the diminutive centre - he can concentrate on playing the game which comes naturally to him.

The French tight forwards are certainly good enough to hold their own against Scotland at the scrum and on the lineout during the last fortnight. Joire's return will strengthen that area and though it may be said that Leslie will offer Scotland further options at the line, as well as in the loose play, it may not turn out that way.

The Scottish selectors admit that to play Leslie at all is a gamble, to make him captain a further gamble. There is no doubting his ability as leader or player, but his match fitness must be in doubt. He has hardly played since October and to expect him to produce the wealth of possession he did during the second season, and inspire the side in a way Laidlaw could not, is hard.

Today's teams in Paris

France	Scotland
S Blanco	P W Dode
(Blanco)	(Dode)
P Dode	P D Steven
(Dode)	(Steven)
P Sella	KT Murray
(Sella)	(Murray)
P D Codorniu	K W Robertson
(Codorniu)	(Robertson)
P Estiva	J A Pollock
(Estiva)	(Pollock)
J L Lescarboura	J V Rutherford
(Lescarboura)	(Rutherford)
G Gallien	R J Laidlaw
(Gallien)	(Laidlaw)
P Dospit	G M McQuinn
(Dospit)	(McQuinn)
P D Dineen	CT Deans
(Dineen)	(Deans)
J P Garnier	I G Milne
(Garnier)	(Milne)
J P Garnier	J M Calder
(Garnier)	(Calder)
F Hagat	A J Campbell
(Hagat)	(Campbell)
U Gendron	T J Smith
(Gendron)	(Smith)
L Rodriguez	D G Leslie
(Rodriguez)	(Leslie)
J L Jodelin	J A M Paxton
(Jodelin)	(Paxton)

Referee: L M Pridmore (England)

FRANCE: 15 B Vernet (Goal), 17 P Dineen (P), 14 J C Orie (P), 18 P Bachelier (L), 20 E Bonneret (T), 21 E Lapeyre (R).

SCOTLAND: 15 N A Hovatt (B), 17 G G Calder (S), 18 J Jeffrey (P), 19 G Hovatt (S), 20 D S Wyllie (S), 21 A Tait (P).

Lescarboura rebuked

Scotland's half-back Lescarboura was rebuked by his coach after a draw with England.

England may make alternative plans

England, deprived of their game at Cardiff today, will give some thought to the possibility of a contingency plan aimed at keeping their playing squad together before the next international against Scotland on March 16. (David Hands writes). If the bitter weather makes it impossible to play the Player Special Cup games, they may be affected and the opportunity might arise to give England's players an impromptu match in some part of the country - the far West springs to mind - which may not be so badly affected.

The loss of several lines in the first paragraph of yesterday's story about the postponed international suggested that England's last April championship was against Wales in Cardiff in 1967. It was, in fact, against France. In 1970 when England lost 35-13 to a young Celtic, they were in April in Wales 30-9 to Cardiff.

English and Welsh clubs hoping to prepare today for Cup games on February 23 have been hit by the weather, though some in Wales, too, near the sea, were delaying a decision on their game with

Harrogate. Their Cup opponents, Wigan, were awaiting a telephone call from Torquay this morning to see whether a game tomorrow is feasible.

One of the few English players who may get a game is Dooley, a young Prestonian, who is a loose forward and is due to visit the Scottish borders and play Jed-Forest. Saracens hope to play their Middlesex Cup quarter-final with Newcastle on Saturday, and Northampton are scheduled for a Sunday game with Coventry.

ATHLETICS

Toobys and weather main threat to Budd

By Pat Butcher

The only challengers to Zola Budd's authority in the English cross-country championships this afternoon are the Tooby twins and the conditions on the course at Arrow Park, Birkenhead.

This is such a good opportunity for the Toobys to have a crack at Miss Budd, and for their club Cardiff AAC, one of the strongest in Britain, to challenge for the English team trophy, that the Welsh women's committee have deferred their senior race in the Welsh women's championships, also being held today, to a Gwent League fixture next week.

The Toobys, particularly Zola, were distance running last year. Despite Angela's brainstorm in the same race last year - one of the favourites, she dropped out after 250 metres, she finished eighth on her debut in the world championship after leading the race for 90 per cent of the way.

After a successful road-running stint in the United States, where she broke two course records, Angela won the European club cross-country individual title in Madrid two weeks ago. Susan had previously won the home countries race at Sedgefield. Their coach, Ann Hill, said last night that she felt Angela had the edge on her twin, and that they were both going to give Miss Budd a run for her money.

Ruth Smith, a former champion from Aldershot and Farnham, the same club as Miss Budd, should also be in contention since she finished a close second in the world championship. In the absence of Jane Shields (see Furness), last year's runaway champion, who is road racing in the United States, Sarah Rowell and Carol Hines, who were runners-up in the 1984 European title, will be the most prominent contenders for a place in the first six.

The race, however, should be another showcase for Miss Budd's talents, although if Arrow Park proves over during the night after the partial thaw, the ruined icy conditions could have the long-legged youngsters sliding around like a drunken ostrich. She is unlikely to win by ending near the 1m 34sec which distanced her from the Southern counties field two weeks ago, but only the conditions can prevent another walkover for Miss Budd.

Tilli indoor challenge

Genoa (Reuters) - Stefano Tilli, of Italy, takes on the British pair, Linford Christie and Earl Tulloch, in a sprint race which promises to be the highlight of today's indoor triangular match between Italy, Britain and Yugoslavia.

Tilli, emerging from the shadow of the 200 metres world record holder Pietro Mennea who retired last December, joins his up-and-coming Italian teammates over the distance. But Tilli will have to recapture his best form to win.

Simionato was one of the few successes of Italy's indoor match with the Soviet Union in Turin two weeks ago, winning the 200 metres in 10.75sec and pipping Tilli to the lead by 0.09sec.

The 60 metres men's race will be won by France's Favoni, who won the event at Turin in 6.74sec, against Lincoln Asquith, whose best time over the distance is 6.66sec. Asquith helped Britain to victory over West Germany at an indoor meet in Cologne last Saturday, winning the 60 metres in 6.70sec.

RACING: A LOOK AT THE LEADING FIRST-SEASON SIRE



Groomed for a new role: Teenoso receives a pat of encouragement from Geoff Wragg, his former trainer

Chief Singer holds the stage

Considering the considerable fiscal advantages Irish breeders and stud owners enjoy compared with their English counterparts, the quality of the list of stallions standing at stud for the first time in this country this year is heartening.

My list of the top 10 ranges from sheer speed shown by Precocious and Petong to out-and-out stamina that made Little Wolf so formidable in the Cup races. Sandwiched between the extremes we find a blend of speed and stamina represented by Adonijah, Chief Singer, Dunbeath, Legend of France, Teenoso, and Tolomeo.

The nine I have just mentioned are all newcomers to the ranks of stallions. PHARLY, the tenth name on my list, is not strictly a first season sire because he has been standing in France since 1978 and so has four crops already racing.

Shot in the arm

However, following a deal towards the end of last year, Pharly is now the resident stallion on Lord Howard de Walden's Plantation Stud near Newmarket, so he is now to this country. The pressure of such a classy, well-bred horse - he is a grandson of Northern Dancer - is unquestionably a shot in the arm for English breeding.

No one, however, should be looking forward now to the new breeding season, which began officially yesterday, than the Marquess of Harrington. This year his Sidehill Stud on the eastern edge of Newmarket Heath, is standing not one, but two new stallions, Chief Singer and Dunbeath.

Those lucky enough to witness the performances of CHIEF SINGER at Royal Ascot, Newmarket and Goodwood last year when he won the St James's Palace Stakes, the July Cup and the Sussex Stakes, will have appreciated his qualities as a racehorse. Whether a horse who is regarded as something of a freak will also succeed as a stallion is one of the imponderables that makes the uncertain world of bloodstock so fascinating.

It must be a source of encouragement, though last season's crack French two-year-old filly, Seven Springs, is another prominent member of Chief Singer's female

family. Breeders like to use families that are in the ascendancy.

Like Chief Singer, DUNBEATH also comes from a female family which has been in the news. By Grey Dawn the only horse to have beaten the legendary Sea Bird II he is out of Priceless Fame, who established a new record for a mare sold at public auction when she changed hands for \$6 million in the United States last autumn.

As for Dunbeath, the reasons for that astronomical price are plentiful. A full sister to the Kentucky Derby winner, El Forbes, Priceless Fame was also the dam of last season's crack American two-year-old, Saratoga Six. Added to which she was also in foal to the Triple Crown winner and instant stud success, Seattle Slew.

As for Dunbeath, he did enough as a two-year-old in England in winning the William Hill Futurity and the Royal Lodge Stakes to convince me that he has been priced reasonably in these heady days at \$4,000 down, with a further payment of \$4,000 on the birth of a live foal.

At one stage Dunbeath was the antepost favourite for the 1983 Derby. When it was clear that either he had not trained on from two to three or he did not stay far enough or both, the way became clear for TEENOSO to steal the limelight at Epsom. But besides winning the Blue Riband of English racing, Teenoso also did something that no Derby winner since Royal Palace has achieved when he won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot the following year as a four-year-old.

Those performances, coupled with that brave victory in the Grand Prix de Saint Cloud, earmarked Teenoso as a suitable replacement at the Highclere Stud for the late and much lamented Troy, whose premature death two years ago was such a blow. Furthermore, Teenoso's four-year-old career was emphatic vindication of the assertion of Geoff Wragg, his trainer that he had plenty of speed and was not simply a soft ground stayer as had been suggested the previous year.

With the Highclere Stud full and committed Lord Porchester had to look elsewhere for a suitable home for his top-class stayer LITTLE WOLF. After the

death of Relko the necessary room became available on Joan Forbes's Burley Lodge Stud. By Grundy, who is sadly now in Japan, Little Wolf is out of a half sister to Queen's Hussar, the sire of Brigadier Gerard.

Apart from both being fast there is another link between Precocious and Petong. Precocious is by Mother's Pet, the stallion who has held court with such fine results on the Barleythorpe Stud. Petong is the newest edition to the ranks of stallions on that successful stud.

PRECOCIOUS was a brilliant juvenile until his racing career was cut short when he chipped a bone in his knee. Not surprisingly he soon got a full book of mares and by all accounts there is already a waiting list for next year.

Those splendid performances in the Wokingham Stakes, the Stewards Cup and the Vernons Sprint Cup last season pointed to PETONG being an ideal commercial sprint stallion, standing at only \$3,000 no foal, no fee.

Adonijah and Legend of France, former stable companions in Henry Cecil's yard are now to be found on the Someries and Densley Wood Studs, respectively. A son of Highline, ADONIJAH was unusually fast. It should not be lost on breeders that

Australia-bound

his elder half brother, that good sprinter Absalom, is already doing well as a stallion. LEGEND OF FRANCE is a classy looking son of that influential stallion, Lyphard.

Anyone wanting to use TOLOMEO, another from the same sire line, had better look sharp, though, because he is spending only one season on our National Stud before leaving these shores to take up stud duties in Australia. The conqueror of legendary North American racehorse, John Henry, in the 1983 Budweiser Million, Tolomeo is by Lyphard's son, Lyphor, who is also the sire of Royal Heron, the winner of more than \$1 million in stake money in the United States last year. I always regarded Tolomeo as a particularly fine looking racehorse and excellent mover.

Michael Phillips

BOXING

McGuigan camp flies in Hayes and Laporte film

Gerard Hayes, of the United States, who has first-hand knowledge of Juan Laporte, having beaten the Puerto Rican, former world champion, arrived in Belfast tomorrow to help Barry McGuigan put the finishing touches to his preparation for his bout with Laporte, at the King's Hall next Saturday (Scribner's Sen writes).

Hayes, who was well beaten by Bernard Taylor, a former American champion, last night in Atlantic City on Thursday, has a damaged mouth, but says he will be bringing over a film of his contest with Laporte and go through it with McGuigan.

Hayes could be said to be an invaluable sparring partner for the Irishman, for should Taylor beat Eusebio Pedraza, the World Boxing Association champion, on June 30, Hayes will be able to tell McGuigan all about the new champion.

Chris Reid, an Irish American cruiserweight, who knocked out Miguel Rosas at Atlantic City, will be boxing, on the McGuigan-Laporte bill.

Canadian faces legal action

Amsterdam (Agency) - A Dutch boxing promoter said yesterday that he had started legal action against Canadian boxer Terry Reddick, who was knocked out in the second round by the Dutch light-heavyweight, Alan Blanchard, in a World Amateur Association (WAA) title bout on Monday.

Hook Reddick, the promoter and manager of Blanchard, said the public prosecutor was seeking the closure of Reddick's boxing career, but had misinformed him about his weight and health.

Reddick, a middleweight, said he would no longer box on a serious fight, but he did not deliberately hit his shorts at the weigh-in to reach the light-heavyweight range. He claimed he was a "bushy" and had misinformed him about his weight and health.

Curry moves up

Don Curry, the World Boxing Association champion, steps up a weight on March 30 in Atlantic City when he meets a fellow American, James "Hard Rock" Green, over 10 rounds in a light-middleweight contest.

SNOOKER

Hearn attacks decision over cut in frames

Barry Hearn, manager of Steve Davis, the world snooker champion, yesterday criticized the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association for bowing to pressure from TV to cut the length of matches in the Duxon British Open championships from the best of 11 frames to the best of nine.

Hearn, a WPBSA board member, said: "This was a case of TV exercising authority over our game, something they are not entitled to do and must never be allowed to do again. If there was a problem, then it was their domestic problem, then it was their domestic problem. The game itself should not have been dragged in. Mind you, I blame the board too. If they had played a better game of poker they would have won."

The reduction to length applies to matches from the second round onwards. TV was concerned over hefty overtime payments if night matches overran and had also

requested that afternoon start times be put back from 1 pm to 2 pm as union involvement higher costs if the lighting rig is switched on before 2 pm.

Davis meets John Virgo in the final stages at the Assembly Rooms. Davis, the world champion, having qualified by beating Tony Chappel 6-5. He said: "I feel sorry for Tony. If I had been best of nine in the first round I would have been out when I was 5-4 down. They should not have changed the format."

Tony Knowles, runner-up to Davis in the recent Tolly Cobbold English championship, plays tomorrow night. The first match of the afternoon will be between two unseeded players, Malcolm Bradley and Dennis Fowler. On the adjoining table, Terry Griffiths faces another unseeded player, Steve Newbury.

The hooligans who are destroying the language

Going home in the train at midnight from Victoria I fell to thinking about football fans. It was appropriate place to think about them because it is in trains that the worst of the fans get up to their most unattractive mischief.

Be not afraid. I am not going to mount a moral high horse. It would certainly upset me. As a wordsmith of sorts I am more interested in the casual descriptions of these fan "mindless idiots", "yobos", "hooligans", "drunken idiots", "scum", "wild animals", "monsters", "cowards", and "madmen". I want to suggest that one or two of these terms go a little over the top, even about fans at their worst.

"Hooligans" is all right. The Oxford dictionary defines a hooligan as "one of a gang of young street roughs". My dictionary says: "modern slang for a 'yob'". But I imagine that "yobos" and "hooligans" are offspring of the same parents.

"Cowards" is permissible, too, though with reservations. Not "scum" and "wild animals". But "hooligans" and "yobos" are not. Whatever your opinion in the heat of the moment, and the wildness of animals, unlike the behaviour of some fans, is natural and practical.

SIDELINES Gordon Allan

As for "mindless idiots", which is the most frequent description of all, it may come as a surprise to those who use it - as it did to me - to find that "idiot" means "backward fellow, bumpkin, clown". In short a harmless person, which a fan on the rampage is not. Attaching "idiot" to the noun is more scabrous. Incidentally, I remember "mindless" once being excised from a caption on these pages because the photograph was so clear that the fan could have identified themselves, and it was suggested that the world might have been defamed.

Please do not rush into indignant correspondence telling me about your terrible experiences of football hooligans, making me feel I have ever suffered at their hands, and accusing me of defending them. I don't have had no experience of that kind, and I am not defending football hooligans.

What I am trying to defend is the language. I am making a simple plea for cut out the bluntness, the aggression, the threat, the hooligan, and leave it at that.

SKIING

Buergler steals the show from favourites

Krajnska Gora, Yugoslavia (Reuters) Thomas Buergler, of Switzerland, won the men's World Cup giant slalom yesterday, stealing the show from the two favourites, Pirmin Zurbriggen, also of Switzerland, and Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg.

Buergler weaved down the steep piste, which dropped 340 metres and through the 46-gates, in a combined time of 2min 10.21sec. Zurbriggen was second in 2min 10.22sec and Girardelli third in 2min 10.42sec.

Markus Wasmaier, of West Germany, the surprise winner of the giant slalom gold medal at the world championship in Bern, missed a gate and was disqualified in the first leg. Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, produced an impressive second leg to clock a combined time of 2min 10.45sec and move from seventh place after the first leg to fourth overall.

Zurbriggen, battling with Girardelli to retain his overall World Cup title, yesterday gained some of the points he lost when out of action for several races after a knee operation.

Yesterday's race replaced one scheduled for Todnaun, West Germany, on January 23 which was put off because of the lack of snow. RESULTS: 1. T Buergler (Switz), 2min 10.21sec; 2. P Zurbriggen (Switz), 2min 10.22sec; 3. M Girardelli (Lux), 2min 10.42sec; 4. I Stenmark (Swe), 2min 10.45sec; 5. P Perrotti (Ital), 2min 10.47sec; 6. S Wasmaier (Ger), 2min 10.51sec; 7. R Kneissl (Aust), 2min 10.52sec; 8. R Kneissl (Aust), 2min 10.53sec; 9. R Kneissl (Aust), 2min 10.54sec; 10. R Kneissl (Aust), 2min 10.55sec.

Luescher injured

Berne (Reuters) Peter Luescher, the former World Cup ski champion, will be out of action for the rest of the season after a five-hour operation following a fall in Kirchdorf, Austria. It was not known whether his future skiing career was to be jeopardized. Luescher's injuries included a broken shinbone, and damage to ligaments and meniscus of his right knee.

Berne (Reuters) - Heavy snowfall forced the cancellation of yesterday's World Cup 70-metre ski jump in Gstaad.

Frost rules out Leopardstown

Racing faces another blank weekend following the postponement yesterday of Leopardstown because of frost. It is hoped to rearrange the programme, which featured the significant Cheltenham trial, the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle, but no new date has so far been fixed.

Nottingham, with snow on the course and frost underneath, was called off yesterday morning to become the 71st meeting lost this National Hunt season.

Fountain Park and Wolverhampton meetings scheduled for Monday also look certain casualties. There were five degrees of frost at the Sussex track last night and the clerk of the course, Derek Hubbard, said that an inspection will probably be tomorrow morning. Wolverhampton inspect at noon today. There are six-foot snow drifts at the Midlands track.

Monday's Irish meeting at Down Royal has been abandoned. There will also be inspections tomorrow at Tuesday's two scheduled venues, Huntington (12.00 noon) and Sedgefield (3.00 pm).

Baloea to beat off British raiders

Four British visitors turn out in the \$4,021 Prix de Bastia over a mile and a half at Cagnes-sur-Mer tomorrow, but none of them looks capable of handling the six-year-old, Baloea, who won the Prix de la Forêt last season, twice finishing a close fifth to both-coated handicaps at Saint-Cloud.

She was transferred to the Curtilly stable of John Fellows during the winter and reappeared in the Chantilly stable of John Fellows during the winter and reappeared in a 10 furlong handicap at Cagnes last Sunday, running on strongly to be fourth of 18 to Prince Jeff. She will be ridden by Claude Ramonet, who also had the mount last week, and will be much better suited by the extra quarter-mile.

Narford Serravallo, the mount of John Mathias, and Reliska, the mount of Paul Jenner's leading lady riders, Ghislaine Lecomte, were both beaten a long way in a ladies' race, in which the Italian five-year-old, Star Powerful, was third. Sharp Snap, ridden by Guy Guigaud, for Willie Hastings-Bass, finished out of the first seven at long odds on his reappearance eight days ago. He looks more likely to improve than either Hayashi (Richard Hills), who has not run

since June 8, or the other two British candidates, but he is still only an each-way hope.

Kiss Love can give Guigaud a good start to the day by beating the former John Benstead-trained Goodwin in the Prix de Bascourt (Jean-Pierre Roman) (Jean-Pierre Roman) is 11lb better off with Live With Me for a half-length defeat last Friday and should turn the tables in the Prix de Bascourt over the same mile. Top-weighted L'ascouant should also go close.

Hot Buck (Philippe Angot), who made a bold attempt to lead throughout before finishing fourth to Live With Me, beaten only one and a half lengths, last week, should take the other mile handicap, the Prix des Bouleaux.

Killyglen (Mathias) did best of the five British hopes in the \$4,468 Prix Joseph Collignon yesterday, finishing third to Royal Candle. He was beaten half a length and one length after showing up well throughout. Every effort, the stated favourite, Hobourne's Rose, Secretary's Office and Heart Of Stone all finished out of the first seven in a field of 14.

Point-to-points hit again

None of the five scheduled point-to-point fixtures for today have survived the frost and snow (Brian Beel writes). Two, the United Services and the Essex Farmers, have been abandoned. No decision will be taken about applying for a new date for the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt, but the other meetings hope to race next week.

There is no snow at Ottery St Mary where the Mid-Devon Hunt have postponed until Wednesday and with the daytime temperature forecast to be above freezing there is some optimism. The Flittinging have a full week in which the weather can relent as their meeting has been postponed until next Saturday.

As for the sponsor two unique hunter chases during March, which are to be confined to the progeny of the National Light Horse Breeding Society's (N.L.H.B.S.) premium stallion scheme. The first race at Doncaster on Saturday, March 9, is to be known as the Hayseken Audi H.L.S. Hunter Chase, and the second at Towchester on March 21 will be titled the Baldwin and Phillips Audi H.L.S. Hunter Chase.

THE TIMES

To advertise in The Times or The Sunday Times please telephone 01-837 3311 or 3333

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Alternatively you may write to: Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB

You may now use your Access or Visa Card when placing your advertising

Times Newspapers Limited, Classified Dept, FREEPOST, London, WC1 8BB


Saturday

Television and radio programmes
Summaries: Peter Dear, Peter Davall

Sunday

عبدالله بن محمد بن عبد الله

CU AM



...rugg presents a profile of the
on ITV, at 9.45 pm

CHANNEL 4

- 00 **Irish Angle.** The Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret Fitzgerald is interviewed by Emyr Daniel.
- 30 **Face the Press.** Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, is questioned by Ian Atkin, political editor the *The Guardian* and Geoffrey Smith, political columnist of *The Times*. Anthony Howard of *The Observer* is in the chair.
- 00 **A Question of Economics.** Part six of the 26-programme series aimed at making the sometimes esoteric subject of economics more lucid deals with Britain's manufacturing industry and its decline.
- 25 **Film: 42nd Street** (1933) starring Warner Baxter, Bebe Daniels and Ruby Keeler. The classic "backstage" musical about the problems that beset a Broadway producer when he tries to get a show on the road. Directed by Lloyd Bacon.
- 05 **Silent Laughter.** Clips from the great silent comedy films.
- 00 **Athletics.** John Walker attempts to run a sub four-minute mile for the hundredth time.
- 00 **The Amateur Naturalist.** Gerald Durrell and his wife, Lee, visit the French wetland wilderness of the Camargue.
- 30 **News summary followed by The Business Programme.** Desmond Norman, who designed the Islander light commercial plane, the most successful since the War, attempts to make a comeback with two new planes after his company, Britton-Norman, failed. Plus, David Plastow, managing director of Vickers, explains how he has made employee involvement a reality in his company.
- 15 **Basketball.** The semi-final second leg match in the Anglo Scottish Cup between Hemel and Watford Royals and MJM Edinburgh.
- 15 **The Ganges Ghañai.** A documentary about a fascinating crocodile and the efforts being made to ensure its conservation (r).
- 15 **Super Troopers.** The tribute to the variety stars of the past continues with performance from, among others Ken Dodd, Tommy Trinder and Nicholas Parsons.
- 15 **The Price.** The final episode of the thriller and *Geostory* Carr uses computers to track down the kidnappers of his wife and step-daughter (r).
- 0 **City General.** The second programme in the series about Stoke's City General Hospital.
- 0 **Film: Topkapi** (1940).

country as this year's Royal Command film, *A Passage to India* (Oracle).

United States plant's scheme

[illegible]

OF INSERTION _____
Please allow time for posting and processing

<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p>		<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p>	
--	--	--	--

